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Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump both struggled in the final presidential debate to explain comments from their past. A look at some of the claims from the debate:

TRUMP: "She's lied hundreds of times to the people, to Congress, and to the FBI."

THE FACTS: Trump's claim about the FBI doesn't square with what FBI Director James Comey has said publicly.

At a July congressional hearing, two days after announcing that he was recommending against bringing charges against Clinton over her use of a private email server to handle sensitive information while secretary of state, Comey said, "We have no basis to conclude she lied to the FBI."

DONALD TRUMP: "President Obama has moved millions of people out ... millions of people have been moved out of this country."

THE FACTS: That's true. Obama has overseen the deportation of more than 2.5 million immigrants since taking office in January 2009.

Live debate updates: Trump refuses to promise that he would accept election results Jose A. DelReal, David A. Fahrenthold

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After both...

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(Jose A. DelReal, David A. Fahrenthold)

During Obama's first term hundreds of thousands of immigrants were deported annually, following a trend of increasing deportations started under President George W. Bush. The administration set a record in 2014 when more than 409,000 people were sent home. During his second term, deportations have steadily declined as he has opted to focus immigration enforcement resources on finding and deporting serious criminals and those who pose a threat to national security or public safety.

But Trump also claims that "nobody knows about it, nobody talks about it" and that's far from the truth. Obama has been dubbed "the deporter in chief" by immigration advocates and opponents of his immigration enforcement policies.

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton face off in the third and final presidential debate of the 2016 campaign on Oct. 19, 2016, at the Thomas & Mack Center on the campus of the University of Las Vegas Nevada.

DONALD TRUMP: Under Hillary Clinton, "\$6 billion went missing" at the State Department.

THE FACTS: Not quite. That figure is a distortion about a legitimate record-keeping concern. In 2014, the State Department's inspector general released an alert warning that the documentation for \$6 billion in State Department contracts was incomplete. But there's no reason to think that all occurred under Clinton. The inspector general, Steve Linnick, specifically disavowed the conclusion that the money went missing.

DONALD TRUMP: Hillary Clinton "has no idea whether it's Russia, China or anybody else" that is behind recent hacks of Democratic organizations and individuals. "Our country has no idea."

THE FACTS: Actually, the U.S. government says it does have an idea, and has concluded it was Russia who hacked into the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the email accounts of Clinton campaign manager John Podesta and others.

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Clinton said in the speech that "my dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders, sometime in the future with energy that is as green as sustainable as we can get it, powering growth and opportunity for every person in the hemisphere." The remarks suggest a broad interest in open trade but were not necessarily evidence that she would support the unfettered movement of people, as Trump charged.

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THE FACTS: Clinton might aspire to that lofty goal, but she has only proposed making college tuition free for in-state students who go to a public college or university. Even with expanded grant aid, room and board can lead students to borrow.

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THE FACTS: Clinton's plan wouldn't raise taxes at all for 95 percent of Americans, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. The very wealthiest would take the greatest hit, though a doubling is highly questionable.

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DONALD TRUMP: Referring to a 2010 U.S.-Russia treaty limiting both countries to 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads, Trump said, "They create warheads. We can't."

The FACTS: Incorrect. The New START treaty, which Trump called "Start Up," does not prevent either the U.S. or Russia from building nuclear warheads. It restricts each country to a total of 1,550 warheads deployed on bombers, submarines and in underground silos and requires that this limit be reached by February 2018.

Trump also said that after the treaty was signed, "They expanded and we didn't."

It's true that the Russians have increased the number of their deployed warheads to 1,796, and the U.S. warhead total has dropped to 1,367. But it also is true that their total was far below that of the U.S. when the treaty went into effect in 2010. New data published by the State Department this month showed that although Russia has added to its warhead total, its inventory of missile launchers, such as underground silos, has shrunk.

Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists, who closely tracks U.S. and Russian strategic forces, says the rise in Russian deployed warheads is temporary and is to be followed by the retirement of older nuclear weapons so that Moscow gets under the treaty limits. "Russian compliance with the treaty by 2018 is not in doubt," he wrote recently.

TRUMP: "Hillary Clinton wanted the (border) wall. Hillary Clinton fought for the wall in 2006 or thereabouts. Now, she never gets anything done, so naturally it wasn't built."

THE FACTS: He's partly right. As a senator from New York, Clinton did support the 2006 Secure Fence Act, which authorized the construction of hundreds of miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border.

But it was built, contrary to Trump's assertion. Nearly 700 miles of fencing was put in place during President George W. Bush's second term and the beginning of President Barack Obama's first term.

The fencing is placed largely in urban areas along the nearly 2,000-mile frontier. It is not the type of solid wall that Trump has pledged to construct at Mexico's expense. The fence has miles-long gaps and gates built in to allow landowners access to their property on the south side of the fencing. Immigrants have been known to go over and around the fence.

TRUMP: "So I just left some high representatives of India. They're growing at 8 percent. China is growing at 7 percent. And that for them is a catastrophically low number. We are growing, our last report came out and it's right around the 1 percent level and I think it's going down."

THE FACTS: China and India are growing faster in large part because they're playing catch-up to the United States, the world's largest economy. Those two Asian countries are starting from a much lower baseline with a much larger population than the United States, meaning that by definition they should be growing faster. Economists would warn of a dangerous bubble if the United States grew that quickly and financial markets would fear a devastating recession to follow.

But China and India aren't any better off than the U.S., said former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke in an analysis released Wednesday. On a per-capita basis, China has just 10 percent of the United States' income. India has about 6 percent.

Factoring in life expectancy, inequality and leisure, Bernanke notes that the United States comes off even better.

TRUMP: "Last week, as you know, the end of last week, they came out with an anemic jobs report. A terrible jobs report."

THE FACTS: The September jobs report that Trump calls "terrible" is actually viewed by most economists as encouraging. Employers added 156,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate ticked up to 5 percent because more Americans felt confident enough to start looking for jobs, a positive sign.

Associated Press

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What you should know about immigration ahead of the third US presidential debate | [View Clip](#)

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MSN PH

...legal status in 2014, according to data from the US Department of Homeland Security. Employer-sponsored immigrants accounted for...

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National Defense Magazine - Online

The Department of Homeland Security is one of the few federal agencies increasing the amount of money it obligates to contractors,...

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Yahoo! India

...not to deport them back to their devastated homeland drew them to the U.S.-Mexico border. "We don't want to cause...

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Migration and Border Policy Links: Haiti, Rakhine, the EU moves to stop exodus from Africa and more | [View Clip](#)

10/20/2016

Interpreter | Lowy Institute For International Policy, The

...in supporting refugee integration. Citing 2016 US Department of Homeland Security statistics, Secretary Johnson drew attention...

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Haitians vulnerable on Mexico-U.S. border as migrant crisis escalates | [View Clip](#)

10/20/2016

Metro New York Online

...not to deport them back to their devastated homeland drew them to the U.S.-Mexico border. "We don't want to cause...

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October 18, 2016: MorganFranklin Marks 5th Consecutive Appearance on Inc. 5000 List of Fastest-Growing Companies

10/20/2016

News Bites - Private Companies

For the fifth consecutive year and sixth time overall, MorganFranklin Consulting has been named to the Inc. 5000 list of the nation's fastest-growing private companies, with three-year revenue growth of 51%. The D.C.-based execution-focused business consulting firm and professional advisor previously appeared on the list in 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, and 2007. The annual Inc. 5000 list is an exclusive ranking that has helped well-known companies such as Microsoft, Yelp, Pandora, Dell, LinkedIn, and Zillow gain early exposure. MorganFranklin is among an elite group of enterprises that have appeared on the list multiple times, many of which have grown to become national icons.

"MorganFranklin is thrilled to celebrate a record five years in a row and sixth appearance overall on the prestigious Inc. 5000 list. We are honored to be in such impressive company among fast-growing organizations comprising one of the most important segments of the economy-America's independent entrepreneurs," said C.E. Andrews, CEO of MorganFranklin Consulting. "The past year has been especially exciting and reflective of our continued commitment to invest further in our unique people- and client-focused culture. It is gratifying to be among the nation's fastest-growing companies while also putting our clients and our people first."

MorganFranklin was named to the inaugural Consulting magazine "Fastest Growing Firms" list in 2015, and the 100% employee-owned firm recently won the 2016 When Work Works Award as well as the 2016 Alliance for Workplace Excellence (AWE) Workplace Excellence Seal of Approval and Health & Wellness Seal of Approval. Companies on the 2016 Inc. 5000 list are featured in the September issue of Inc. magazine, representing the most competitive crop in the list's history. Complete results can be viewed at www.inc.com/inc5000.

Source: click <http://www.morganfranklin.com/news-events/detail/morganfranklin-marks-5th-consecutive-appearance-on-inc.-5000-list-of-fastes>

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SECTION 1 MORGANFRANKLIN ACTIVITIES

MorganFranklin is a business consulting and technology firm.

SECTION 2 MORGANFRANKLIN PROFILE

PermID: 1-4296047240

Website: <http://www.MorganFranklin.com>

SECTION 3 MORGANFRANKLIN TOP MANAGEMENT

C. E. Andrews, CEO & Director

As Chief Executive Officer of MorganFranklin Consulting, C.E. Andrews leads all operations and activities around planning and executing the firm's long-term growth strategy and vision. He is responsible for directing corporate strategies to grow and improve the company worldwide while ensuring alignment with the firm's commitment to deliver unparalleled client service and workplace excellence. C.E. most recently served as President and Chief Operating Officer of RSM McGladrey, Inc. from June 2009 to March 2012, where he further built the firm's brand, talent, and share in the middle market and continued its profitable growth while under the ownership of H&R Block, Inc. From 2003 to 2008, C.E. served in various positions at SLM Corporation (Sallie Mae), including President, CEO, Chief Financial Officer, and Executive Vice President, among others. From 1974 to 2003, he was with the public accounting firm Arthur Andersen LLP. C.E. was an Arthur Andersen Partner from 1984 to 2003 and held positions of increasing responsibility, including key leadership roles in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., office, Mid-Atlantic Market Circle, Southeast Region, U.S. National Practice, and Arthur Andersen Global.

Ron Morgan, Chairman

W. Jeff Pagano, CFO & Vice President

Jeff Pagano directs all MorganFranklin financial functions, applying more than 25 years of financial management experience within publicly and privately held technology and service companies. He has significant experience in corporate restructuring, divestitures, initial public offerings (IPOs), private placements, and SEC compliance reporting.

Before joining MorganFranklin in 2004, Jeff served as Vice President of Finance at Sonitrol Corporation, where he directed the corporate finance and accounting functions and led the company through a \$122 million divestiture from its parent company, Tyco International. Previously, Jeff worked within the Financial Compliance department at Concert B.V. and served as Director of Finance at Network Access Solutions and Corporate Controller at Xybernaut Corporation. Prior to working in industry, Jeff spent four years in public accounting at Deloitte & Touche LLP and Thompson, Greenspon & Co., P.C. performing financial audits and tax compliance for private and public corporations and nonprofit organizations.

"What's challenging and rewarding to me is seeing the results that our team produces and the personal achievements of each member. Awareness of how personal contributions lead to team success is vital. Leading by example and setting a positive tone every day are the most valuable contributions I can make."

Expertise

Corporate Restructuring Divestitures Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) Private Placements Financial Reporting SEC Compliance Accounting Operations Technical Accounting

Industries

Professional Services Technology Telecommunications Consumer Products Government Contracting Nonprofit

Education

Bachelor of Science: Accounting, Virginia Tech

Certifications

Certified Public Accountant (CPA) - Virginia American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Member

Edward Applegate, Managing Director

Ed Applegate serves as Managing Director at MorganFranklin Consulting with a focus on risk management, including the areas of internal audit, IT audit, enterprise risk management, and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance. He also leads transaction services engagements for public markets and financing for private equity transactions. Over the course of his career, Ed has gained international and multinational corporate experience. He spent two years in Sydney, Australia, working with Australian public companies. While at MorganFranklin, he also implemented OMB A-123 internal control compliance programs for several federal agencies. Throughout his career, Ed has served in a variety of industries. Prior to joining MorganFranklin, he worked as the IT audit integration leader in the Technology and Security Risk Services practice at Ernst & Young, where he gained 17 years of public accounting, auditing, and business advisory experience. Additionally, he served in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneurial Services practice in Dallas, where he accrued significant expertise in complex public financial transactions, SEC reporting, and application of financial accounting standards.

William Brydges, Managing Director

Bill Brydges serves as Managing Director at MorganFranklin Consulting with a specific focus on using technology to improve the client experience. In this role, he is responsible for business development and delivery of enterprise applications projects, enterprise information solutions, and assistance with overall IT strategy for clients implementing change. He is also responsible for managing MorganFranklin's internal technology group and infrastructure. Bill is an accomplished IT executive with more than 23 years of leadership experience with ERP applications, infrastructure, IT managed services, and IT strategy projects. He has a deep background of growing and leading IT organizations through periods of significant change, evolution of service offerings, and business and staff development. An authority on developing technology solutions and services, Bill has a long track record of delivering complex technology projects on time and within budget. He also brings a wide variety of industry experience that includes multiple full life cycle, large ERP implementations, including both technical modifications and the change management aspects required by these types of transformative initiatives. His other service specialties include IT strategy and cost optimization, infrastructure and IT managed services, vendor and technology selection, and enterprise information skills.

Thomas Roland, Managing Director

Tom Roland is responsible for practice development and client service delivery in MorganFranklin's Strategy, Finance & Operations (SF&O) solution offering. SF&O primarily supports multinational organizations and the related operational challenges that come with that complexity. Over the past 10 years, Tom has led engagements in more than 40 countries and delivered services across all of MorganFranklin's solutions, supporting large enterprise clients, complex global engagements, rapid growth companies, and public sector-oriented organizations.

With almost 20 years of professional experience, Tom's core expertise and background are in finance and accounting, with a focus on management reporting, process design and improvement, and finance close optimization and acceleration. Through his years of client service experience, he has aided clients who seek to improve the relationship between finance and operations as well as the alignment of finance focus to the needs of the business or organization to drive effective use of data and information to inform better decision making. Tom also possesses extensive knowledge of legal entity structure simplifications, setup and execution of international trading models, and related jurisdictional compliance matters.

Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Tom served as a senior analyst and project manager at Concert Communications focused on material weakness remediation, carve-outs, and audit-related challenges. Previously, he worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in the firm's assurance and advisory practice.

Shawn Degnan, Managing Director

Shawn Degnan serves as Managing Director at MorganFranklin Consulting and is responsible for leading the firm's initial public offering (IPO) readiness services, specifically focusing on serving the high-growth and technology markets. He also oversees client service delivery and business and people development efforts, drawing on his more than 14 years of experience in transaction services, SEC reporting, technical accounting, Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) compliance, and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Since joining MorganFranklin in 2010, Shawn has managed large teams for publicly and privately held businesses and delivered high-quality service by applying strong technical, interpersonal, and project management skills. During his tenure with MorganFranklin, Shawn has led numerous successful IPO readiness efforts for clients preparing to enter the public markets. He assists clients with the audit and SAS 100 review process, internal control design gap analysis, and preparation of S-X compliant financial statements and registration statements.

Scott Rottmann, Managing Director

Scott Rottmann leverages expertise in global finance transformation to help clients drive value through the finance function. Through process and technology improvement, he helps companies streamline access to critical information needed to improve decision making. Scott is a nationally recognized expert in finance transformation and performance management with more than 18 years of experience leading complex, global projects at some of the world's most valuable brands. Throughout his career, Scott has helped CXOs, boards of directors, and audit committees optimize their organizations, and he has led programs and projects around the globe working with teams of all sizes. He specializes in finance transformation and its impact on companies' people, processes, and technology.

Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Scott served as a principal and Southeast region Finance service line leader at Deloitte. He helped one of the world's leading companies streamline its global finance operations through process and technology efficiency, and he led a global finance transformation that operated in more than 200 locations worldwide while concurrently helping to integrate the acquisition of a multibillion-dollar company. Previously, Scott served as a manager at Answerthink, Inc., and he began his career as an audit senior at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Kenneth Merritt, Managing Director

Ken Merritt applies more than 20 years of experience in finance strategy and operations by combining his deep

strategic business acumen and financial background to produce significant bottom-line results. He specializes in designing and executing finance transformation programs through people, process, technology, and data solutions. Ken has worked with some of the world's largest corporations, leading finance transformation initiatives within financial services and other industries. He is experienced in finance strategy and visioning, target operating models, performance management, external and management reporting, data management and governance, and software application best practices and implementations.

Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Ken served as Senior Manager at Deloitte Consulting, designing and executing finance transformation programs for large banking and securities clients. Previously, he served at First Annapolis Consulting, Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), and General Electric (GE).

Jim Burns, Managing Director & Director

Jim Burns helps clients achieve integrated risk and compliance programs that deliver increased transparency, accountability, and cost-effectiveness. He has more than 30 years of experience driving operational growth, leading transformational initiatives, maximizing emerging technology opportunities, and enabling organizational change in both the public and private sectors. He has led regional and national consulting firms and managed extensive interactions with boards of directors and executive management across a spectrum of subject matter.

Since joining MorganFranklin, Jim has led multiple IT analysis projects to develop financial, operational, and strategic investment plans for IT service delivery organizations. He has also led enterprise technology risk transformation projects to improve the transparency of CIO risk environments, including aligning IT service risk to business risk and quantifying risk tolerance.

Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Jim spent 18 years at Deloitte, most recently as a Principal in the Security and Privacy practice implementing global operational and technology risk and compliance programs. Earlier in his career, Jim founded a CIO transformation consulting firm, where he identified and led global transformational projects.

"After 30 years, I still honestly love the day-to-day challenges of my job. I truly believe that what MorganFranklin is building in the consulting space is special, and it comes out in the passion by which I engage my clients and our employees. It comes down to passion for serving clients-the hands-on style of our leaders-and it translates into a much more personal approach to consulting, which many firms have lost over the past 10 years."

Expertise

Information Technology IT Risk & Compliance Information Security IP Security Enterprise Transformation ERP Implementation Internal Audit Organizational Design & Costing Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX)

Publications

IT Business Edge | How to Manage Multiple Cloud Relationships Corporate Secretary | Cyber-Risk: A Board Responsibility CFO.com | Cyber Crime and the CFO: Protecting What Matters to You and Your Stockholders Corporate Secretary | Why You Should Consider an IT Audit

Education

Bachelor of Business Administration: Management Information Systems, Western Connecticut State University Master of Business Administration: Finance, University of Connecticut

Hans Christian Iversen, Managing Director

Hans Christian Iversen serves as Managing Director at MorganFranklin Consulting in the United Kingdom. He is responsible for driving continuous business improvement and corporate transformation solutions for international clients, drawing on his more than 20 years of experience planning and executing strategic and transformational change initiatives throughout Europe. Hans Christian has experience in media, private equity, telecommunications, publishing, IT, banking, manufacturing, and management consulting. He has worked extensively throughout Europe in Scandinavia, Germany, France, Poland, and the UK. Hans Christian is an accomplished and experienced executive leader whose background spans international marketing and business development, HR management, IT infrastructure, wealth management, and corporate finance. He has been credited with delivering millions of pounds in revenue growth while improving competitive market positions for organizations ranging from small businesses and high-growth startups to multibillion-pound operations. Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Hans Christian served for seven years as a director at Committed Capital Financial Services Ltd., an Australian/UK private equity and corporate finance firm specializing in investing in and providing corporate finance advice to fast-growing companies.

Geoff Harkness, Managing Director

Geoff Harkness serves as Managing Director at MorganFranklin Consulting and is responsible for leading complex business and technology transformation efforts, including IT strategy and optimization, enterprise resource planning (ERP), business intelligence (BI), enterprise risk management (ERM), data management, and shared service centers. By aligning business processes and IT infrastructure, he helps clients realize cost savings, accelerate performance, and sustain strategic flexibility to improve their organizational effectiveness and efficiency. Geoff is an experienced management and IT consulting executive who delivers high return-on-investment (ROI) projects and transformational solutions incorporating a wide range of applications and technologies. He is adept at managing the change and human capital alignment involved with the introduction and adoption of new business processes and technology, and he specializes in the strategic planning, implementation, and independent verification and validation (IV&V) of solutions that improve business operations. Geoff has also led complex deployments of leading ERP software solutions, including financial, human capital, and supply chain management offerings from Oracle and SAP.

Amy Hover, Managing Director

Amy Hover provides practical solutions to clients' complex challenges by connecting MorganFranklin's full suite of solution offerings to achieve strategic objectives related to top-line growth initiatives, operational efficiencies, and cost reduction. She is a dynamic leader and communicator who understands the link between financial results, forecasting, business risks, strategies, and opportunities.

Amy has deep experience leading complex, global projects at some of the world's largest names, and she embraces a responsive, hands-on, collaborative style to motivate teams and clients to improve performance and identify operational and financial opportunities. Her leadership and client support role includes helping companies assess the impact and develop a clear roadmap for adoption of the new revenue recognition Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2014-09 issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) in May 2014.

Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Amy served for more than 19 years in various positions at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Washington, D.C., and Portland, Oregon. Admitted to the partnership in 2009, she served international and domestic public, private-equity-owned, and private clients, most recently serving as a Pacific Northwest (PNW) Retail & Consumer (R&C) Assurance Partner as well as an Assurance Partner in PwC's Sustainable Business Solutions (SBS) practice.

Bill Hughes, Managing Director

Bill Hughes serves as Managing Director and Public Sector Market Lead at MorganFranklin Consulting, where he has been instrumental in creating, leading, and shaping the strategic direction of the company's government sector activities. In addition to leading a number of key projects, Bill is responsible for client service, business development, practice development, the creation of new service offerings, and all other aspects of practice operations. Bill possesses more than 22 years of professional services experience conducting external audit, audit readiness, internal control, financial management, and consulting engagements. He has successfully led large project teams comprised of staff, subcontractors, subject matter experts, and specialists on high-profile, complex multinational federal and commercial projects. Bill is deeply experienced with federal (CFO Act) and commercial audits, Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX)/Office of Management and Budget (OMB) No. A-123, COSO/GAO Internal Control Framework (Green Book), GAO FAM/FISCAM, GAO Yellow Book (GAGAS), FFMIA, FMFIA, and other OMB, GAO, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB), and American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) regulations. His service offering specialties include: CFO Act audit and audit readiness; governance, risk, and compliance (GRC); risk management; performance improvement; security and data management; CFO compliance/federal financial management; and OMB A-123.

Charles E. Price II, Managing Director

Charlie Price is an integral leader in MorganFranklin's Corporate Investigations & Dispute Solutions practice. As a decorated FBI Agent for more than 28 years, Charlie established a national reputation as an expert in the "art of interviewing" and developed a proven track record of resolving complex white-collar investigations fast. At MorganFranklin, he applies his skills as both a savvy investigator and CPA to help clients investigate, contain, and resolve time-sensitive corporate and government investigation matters.

Throughout his FBI career, Charlie led numerous high-profile national and international investigations, resulting in more than 100 felony white-collar crime convictions and more than \$115 million in losses prevented, fines, recoveries, and restitution. He served as lead investigator on prominent criminal cases involving corporate fraud, money laundering, bribery, public corruption, bank and insurance fraud, extortion, and embezzlement. The victims in his cases faced both internal and external threats, and he successfully investigated a wide variety of sophisticated targets, including senior corporate executives, attorneys, and CPAs. Charlie resolved complex matters quickly due to his skill in developing and implementing creative, target-specific interview and investigative strategies to obtain signed-statement confessions from a diverse range of subjects, including confessions that were instrumental in convicting two sitting members of Congress.

In 2011, Charlie received the Director's Award for Excellence in HUMINT (Human Intelligence), the FBI's highest award, for interviews and interrogations he performed on classified national security matters while deployed to Afghanistan. He also served on the FBI Director's Special Agent Advisory Committee and served as an adjunct faculty member of the FBI Academy, providing instruction on interviewing, interrogation, and investigation of complex financial crimes to the FBI, SEC, FDIC, federal prosecutors, and both the U.S. intelligence community and its international partners.

Charlie received more than a dozen Outstanding Public Service Awards from U.S. Attorneys' offices and numerous commendations and awards from the FBI Director for excellence in investigation. He also served as an Assault Team Leader on the FBI's Washington Field Office SWAT team, and he was a firearms instructor for more than 20 years. Charlie deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, where he provided support to various U.S. military units on classified operations. Prior to joining the FBI, he served as a CPA at Arthur Andersen & Co., performing financial statement audits in the financial services industry.

Chris Mann, Managing Director

Chris Mann is responsible for leading client service delivery as well as business and practice development activities in MorganFranklin's Accounting & Transaction Services solution offering. He supports clients across a number of industries, ranging from growth-oriented technology companies to multibillion-dollar global enterprises. With more than 24 years of professional experience, Chris specializes in technical accounting, SEC reporting, and merger and acquisition (M&A) related services. His areas of expertise include revenue recognition, complex equity transactions, and consolidation accounting.

Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Chris spent 12 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, where he supervised the financial statement audit process for publicly traded and privately held companies. He focused on initiatives to improve the finance and accounting functions of his clients, which included numerous Fortune 500 organizations across multiple industries. Chris also spent more than three years at Convera Corporation, a publicly traded software company, where as CFO he oversaw the finance, accounting, and legal organizations as well as investor relations.

Frank Landefeld, Managing Director

Frank Landefeld helps clients build and execute strategies to modernize and innovate the technologies they employ. With more than 20 years of technology strategy, business and requirements analysis, and modernization experience, he serves clients around the world in a variety of industries and government through alignment of technology investments with mission execution and business needs.

Working across industries, Frank has executed complex technology advisory and consulting services for clients in North and South America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. He has deep experience planning and delivering IT strategy, technology modernization, enterprise applications selection and implementation, and CIO/CTO advisory services. Over the past decade, Frank has focused on serving the missions of the departments of Justice (DOJ) and Homeland Security (DHS) through delivery and leadership across numerous focused and large-scale transformation efforts for emergency management, cargo screening, maritime operations, transportation and border security, and intelligence information sharing.

Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Frank served as the lead for Strategic Technology & Innovation within Booz Allen Hamilton's Justice and Homeland Security practice. In that role, he provided leadership, subject matter expertise, program management, and career development for more than 100 people nationwide focused on enabling critical homeland security and law enforcement missions through the application of engineering and architecture disciplines. Previously, he served at Voxiva Inc., BearingPoint/KPMG, Blue Martini Software, and Oracle Corporation.

Robert Morgan, Director

Bob Morgan co-founded MorganFranklin Consulting in 1998 and served as Chief Executive Officer of the firm before stepping down in May 2013. As CEO, Bob was responsible for directing corporate strategies and leading the company from a startup to a mature organization with global reach. He now serves as an active director and advisor at MorganFranklin, primarily focusing on developing strategies to grow and improve the company while ensuring that the team is aligned with the vision of surpassing clients' expectations and achieving workplace excellence.

Prior to forming MorganFranklin, Bob served as Program Manager at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, managing multimillion-dollar systems integration programs for the U.S. Navy, White House Communications Agency, Special Operations Forces, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Federal Bureau of Investigation. His experience encompasses the implementation of national security communication and IT systems.

"Since day one, I was motivated to create and build a world-class solutions provider-a company that surpasses the expectations of clients and employees. I focus my energy on strengthening MorganFranklin's culture-which is nationally recognized for workplace excellence, strategic investments in growth, and business improvements-and being an

ambassador to clients and employees."

Publications

The Washington Post Capital Business | Philanthropy Interwoven Into MorganFranklin From the Start Executive Leaders Radio | Interview with MorganFranklin Co-founder Bob Morgan

Memberships & Activities

Greater Washington Board of Trade, Board of Directors Greater Washington Board of Trade Cybersecurity Task Force, Member Penn State College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST) Entrepreneur Program, Advisory Board Member Penn State Alumni Fellow, Lifelong Title, 2010 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) Light the Night Walk, Leadership Team Co-Chair, 2010 - 2011 Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), Volunteer Greater Washington Area American Heart Association (AHA), Past Board of Directors

Education

Bachelor of Science: Electrical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University Master of Business Administration, Florida Institute of Technology

Robert Franklin, Director

Rob Franklin served in various C-level roles after co-founding MorganFranklin Consulting in 1998. Over the course of 15 years, he served as President of National Security Solutions, President of Public Services, Chief Information Officer, and Chief Operations Officer, and he was responsible for shaping the strategic direction of the company's services, solutions, and growth initiatives. In May 2013, Rob transitioned from his executive role to become an active director and advisor at MorganFranklin. In this role, he provides vision and direction to expand market share, drive continuous operational efficiency, and improve quality. Rob's areas of expertise include new venture startup, executive management, strategic planning, business process management, and business development.

Prior to forming MorganFranklin, Rob served as Senior Project Engineer at the Naval Air Warfare Center's Special Communications Requirement Branch. In this capacity, he managed multimillion-dollar program budgets, schedules, and performance metrics for the delivery of advanced Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) programs.

"When working with MorganFranklin Consulting, clients should experience an environment of collaboration, honesty, transparency, and accountability. They should feel as though MorganFranklin is their partner and know that the work is as important and critical to the consultants as it is to them. Because MorganFranklin takes on clients' issues as if they were its own, the recommended solutions are the result of a multidisciplinary perspective that carefully considers the interrelationships of each client's unique business processes, technology architectures, and budgetary constraints."

Publications

WashingtonExec | 2016 DC Heart Ball Feature: Event Chairman Rob Franklin Speaks About Upcoming Black-Tie Event, Feb. 27 WashingtonExec | DC Heart Ball Deputy Chair Rob Franklin Discusses AHA's 'Open Your Heart Campaign'

Memberships & Activities

Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce (FCCC), Board Member & Executive Committee Member FCCC Entrepreneurship Council, Co-Chair, 2013 - 2014 Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), Volunteer American Heart Association (AHA), Volunteer AHA Greater Washington Region DC Heart Ball, Deputy Chair, 2014 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), Volunteer Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), Volunteer

Education

Bachelor of Science: Electrical Engineering, Widener University Master of Business Administration, Florida Institute of Technology

Ashley Baquie, Vice President

Ashley Baquie is responsible for all Human Resources (HR) efforts at MorganFranklin, including providing strategic HR guidance to the company and developing effective programs in direct support of business goals and an optimum working environment for employees. She is also responsible for the firm's Administration, Corporate Social Responsibility, Facilities, and Security departments. Ashley is a seasoned leader with more than 25 years of business

experience and 18 years of experience in HR leadership roles impacting corporate performance through successful development, enhancement, and orchestration of HR processes and programs. Through skillful allocation of human resources and creative, effective programs, she leads strategic initiatives, provides collaborative team-building skills, coaches and develops talent, grows revenues, and slashes expenditures.

Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Ashley served as HR Director at Unisys Corporation, where she led her division in HR policies, practices, and programs. She also served for eight years as Vice President of HR and Administration at Software Performance Systems, Inc. before leading the due diligence team through a successful divestiture. In this role, Ashley helped transform the HR department into a client-oriented, high-performance service center and business partnership, and she developed a workplace that garnered coveted "Best Places to Work" awards. Previously, she served at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Business International, Inc., a consulting arm of The Economist Group.

"Keeping up with the depth and breadth of the human resources field is a fascinating challenge requiring vigilance and commitment. Every day, my team and I have the chance to positively impact the employee experience, the bottom line, and the organization as a whole. What could be more motivating than applying one's energy, expertise, and experience to daily challenges and seeing the successful results? HR is at once business and personal, and the combination is hugely rewarding."

Expertise

Human Resources Strategy & Policy Employee Relations Talent Management Total Rewards Talent Acquisition
Process Improvement Project Management Divestitures Change Management

Industries

Professional Services Technology Government Contracting International Trade & Development Publishing & Business Management

Memberships & Activities

HR Leadership Forum (HRLF), Board of Directors Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Member MorganFranklin Women's Initiative, Executive Leadership Committee Member MorganFranklin Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Member Recipient of Human Resource Leadership Awards (HRLA) of Greater Washington Leadership Award, 2011 Finalist for HRLA Mentoring Award, 2011

Education

Bachelor of Arts: Russian & Soviet Studies, Minor: Spanish, Tulane University

Brendan Giuseppe, Vice President

Brendan Giuseppe leads MorganFranklin's business development practice, connecting organizations across industries through the firm's full suite of solution offerings. Applying more than 17 years of strategic growth experience, he listens to and understands his clients' issues and helps identify the right resources to deliver innovative solutions to organizational challenges across accounting, operations, technology, and risk.

Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Brendan served for four years as Director of Business Development at RSM McGladrey. He also served for eight years as Business Development Director at Deloitte, and he spent 12 years with Arthur Andersen in the Audit and Business Development practices.

Eric Reicin, Vice President & Corporate Secretary

Eric Reicin serves as Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary for the global organization MorganFranklin Consulting, LLC and its parent MorganFranklin, Inc. He serves as Chief Legal Officer and leads the Corporate Investigations & Dispute Solutions consulting practice. Eric fulfills multiple internal and external roles and is also responsible for leading the Contracts department.

Prior to joining MorganFranklin, Eric most recently served as Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel at Sallie Mae, one of the country's largest lenders. He spent 14 years working in senior legal roles at Sallie Mae, partnering with the executive business team. Eric gained valuable expertise providing strategic and operational legal advice to the company and several subsidiaries. He led a team of attorneys and professionals based in six cities and led the bankruptcy litigation operations group. As Deputy General Counsel, Eric served as the company's chief litigation, labor and employment, collections, government contracts, and intellectual property attorney. As leader of the legal risk mitigation group, he was responsible for managing legal support to several subsidiaries, the Board of Directors Audit

Committee, and the Sallie Mae Political Action Committee (PAC), and he provided secondary legal support to other subsidiaries, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and board governance.

Eric is active in the legal community and he has worked closely with in-house counsel at Fortune 500 companies nationwide. In October 2014, he completed a six-year term on the global board of the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), which has a presence in 80 countries. Eric previously served as president of the Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association (WMACCA), the largest regional in-house bar association. He currently serves on the advisory boards of the Georgetown University Law Center Corporate Counsel Institute and the American Employment Law Council (AELC). Eric also served as the 2015 management chair of the American Bar Association Section of Labor and Employment Law Annual Meeting, and he is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Eric is the immediate past management chair of the American Bar Association Section of Labor and Employment Law EEO Committee, and he recently served on the faculty of the Virginia State Bar Professionalism Course.

Earlier in his career, Eric was a litigator at law firms in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. He received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Illinois College of Law and his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and political science from the University of Michigan.

SECTION 4 BUSINESS NEWS ROUND UP

July 29, 2016: MorganFranklin: Government Technology highlights DATA Act insights from Frank Landefeld

[click <http://www.govtech.com/DATA-Act-Charts-Tangible-Path-Forward.html>]

(link)<http://www.govtech.com/DATA-Act-Charts-Tangible-Path-Forward.html>(/link)

Source: click <http://www.govtech.com/DATA-Act-Charts-Tangible-Path-Forward.html>

July 27, 2016: MorganFranklin: University of Buffalo School of Management features Shawn Degnans Alumni Success Story

[click <http://mgt.buffalo.edu/about/alumni-success.host.html/content/shared/mgt/students-faculty-alumni/alumni-success/shawn-degnan.detail.html>]

(link)(/link)

Source: click <http://mgt.buffalo.edu/about/alumni-success.host.html/content/shared/mgt/students-faculty-alumni/alumni-success/shawn-degnan.detail.html>

July 19, 2016: MorganFranklin Consulting & Data Foundation Publish The DATA Act: Vision & Value

[click <http://www.morganfranklin.com/news-events/detail/morganfranklin-consulting-data-foundation-publish-the-data-act-vision-value>]

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Source: click <http://www.morganfranklin.com/news-events/detail/morganfranklin-consulting-data-foundation-publish-the-data-act-vision-value>

May 09, 2016: MorganFranklin Senior Manager Sarah Petit Wins Consulting Magazine Top 25 Consultants Award

[click <http://www.morganfranklin.com/news-events/detail/morganfranklin-senior-manager-sarah-petit-wins-consulting-magazine-top-25-c>]

Sarah Petit, Senior Manager, MorganFranklin Consulting Consulting magazine has named MorganFranklin Consulting Senior Manager Sarah Petit one of the nation's Top 25 Consultants in the publication's prestigious annual list recognizing the most influential and trusted advisors in the profession. She is profiled in the May 2016 issue of Consulting magazine for Excellence in Client Service, chosen from more than 400 nominees from the biggest names in consulting and across all markets. Petit has served in MorganFranklin's Public Sector Market since 2010 and is currently the engagement manager for one of the firm's largest government contracts with the Department of Defense (DoD), responsible for providing strategic audit advisory support to guide her client through an unprecedented environment.

"Being named one of the Top 25 Consultants in the U.S. has been an extremely humbling experience. I focus each day on giving the best to my client and enjoying the work I get to do and the team I have the privilege to lead. It seems basic, but being recognized for client service validates the value I place on supporting my client in executing their

mission," Petit said. "At MorganFranklin, we pride ourselves on being a 'better different.' This award demonstrates our desire and ability to support our clients in a way that is different from everyone else."

Petit played an instrumental role in her client becoming the first military service to successfully complete a financial statement audit by leading development of a cutting-edge automated tracking and reporting solution and supervising her team through the annual review and delivery of more than 15,000 documents to auditors. With more than eight years of CFO Act audit and federal consulting experience, Petit has extensive knowledge and vast experience in Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) regulations, and financial management and audit readiness work. She has worked with a Cabinet-level agency to develop and implement Quality Assurance and Controls Monitoring (QACM) programs, provide A-123 support services, establish risk assessment tools, and assist in efforts to achieve compliance with major laws and regulations. In recognition of her audit expertise and performance, Petit's client has entrusted her to impart critical knowledge to the financial management community by building and presenting a curriculum for officers and staff non-commissioned officers (NCOs) on audit requirements, components, and sustainment.

"After working in consulting for more than 20 years, professionals like Sarah Petit are the reason that I am motivated to continue to serve in this industry," said Frank Landefeld, Managing Director & Public Sector Market Leader at MorganFranklin. "I cannot think of an individual more deserving of this recognition-a sentiment that is echoed daily by Sarah's clients, who regard her as a mentor, sounding board, and advisor in presenting a clear vision and strategy that have saved countless labor hours and rerouted dollars to building increased mission efficiency. Her unwavering dedication to serving her client and our warfighters is unmatched in focus, flexibility, patience, and adaptability."

The 8th annual Top 25 Consultants Awards Dinner will be held on June 16 at The Mandarin Oriental in New York City, and the July 2016 issue of Consulting magazine will feature special coverage and photographs from the event. To view a complete list of the winners, [click here](#).

Source: [click http://www.morganfranklin.com/news-events/detail/morganfranklin-senior-manager-sarah-petit-wins-consulting-magazine-top-25-c](http://www.morganfranklin.com/news-events/detail/morganfranklin-senior-manager-sarah-petit-wins-consulting-magazine-top-25-c)

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a complete list of the winners, click [here](#).

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October 18, 2016: Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.: Super Lawyers Recognizes Four Wellesley Office Principals 10/20/2016

News Bites - Private Companies

Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. proudly announces that Super Lawyers recognized four principals in the Firm's Wellesley office as top lawyers in their fields of practice in Massachusetts.

The 2016 Massachusetts Super Lawyers list includes:

Marc J. Goldstein (Environmental Litigation) Jeanine L.G. Grachuk (Environmental) Brian C. Levey (Land Use & Zoning) Stephen M. Richmond (Environmental)

Super Lawyers is a rating service that identifies lawyers in more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations. Super Lawyers recognition is limited to no more than five percent of the lawyers in a given geographic area.

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SECTION 1 BEVERIDGE & DIAMOND, P.C. ACTIVITIES

Beveridge & Diamond, P.C is a law firm that focuses on environmental law and litigation. Its areas of practice include US environmental law, international environmental law, civil litigation, white collar criminal defense, dispute resolution, insurance recovery, real estate, and corporate law. It caters to aviation, automotive, biotechnology, chemical, consumer products, electronics, hospitality, financial services, iron and steel, mining, petroleum, and pharmaceutical industries. The firm was founded in 1974 and is based in Washington, District of Columbia. It also has offices in Tenaflly, New Jersey; Baltimore, Maryland; San Francisco and Los Angeles, California; and New York City.

SECTION 2 BEVERIDGE & DIAMOND, P.C. PROFILE

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Industry: Miscellaneous Commercial Servi

SECTION 3 BUSINESS NEWS ROUND UP

October 14, 2016: Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.: A Few States Adopt Chemical Legislation Despite TSCA Reform

State legislatures continue to consider legislation to restrict chemicals even as, at the federal level, the Toxic Substances Control Act has been thoroughly overhauled by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. As previously reported here, over 60 bills to restrict chemicals in various ways were introduced earlier this year. Now that many state legislative sessions have ended, it's time to assess the results, presented in the attached chart.

Most of the bills failed to pass. The following three bills were enacted:

In the District of Columbia, the Mayor signed into law Carcinogenic Flame Retardant Prohibition Amendment Act of 2015, which set up a two-step road map to restrict the use of two flame retardant chemicals, first in children's products and residential upholstered furniture and then to consumer products in general (other than exempt products). The Congressional review period ended in August 2016; and the Act became part of D.C. law effective from May 12, 2016. A separate alert on this legislation is available [here](#). In Washington, the Governor signed into law H.B. 2545 / S.B. 6440, a bill that restricts manufacturing, knowingly selling, offering for sale, distributing for sale, or distributing for use five flame retardant chemicals in children's products and residential upholstered furniture. The law became effective on June 9, 2016. In New York, A.B. 172 / S. 5322 became the law after the Governor signed it on September 9, 2016. This law effectively prohibits mercury-added wheel weights by disallowing registration of vehicles that use these weights and outlawing sale, offer to sell, or distribution of such weights. The law became effective immediately upon enactment, but the deadlines for both requirements are in 2018. The plethora of legislation introduced in 2016, double the number of similar bills introduced in 2015, reflects the continued interest of states in regulating chemicals. That only three of the bills passed is not unusual in light of recent experience.

The impact of TSCA reform enactment on the introduction of state chemicals legislation will likely be seen early in 2017, when most bills for that legislative session will be introduced. Stay tuned!

Beveridge & Diamond's Global Product Stewardship and Chemicals practice groups provide strategic, business-focused advice to the global chemicals industry. We work with chemical companies and manufacturers from a variety of industries whose products and activities are subject to EPA's broad chemical regulatory authority under TSCA. We also offer international support on chemical and product issues. For more information, please contact the authors or visit our TSCA Reform Resource Center.

* Not licensed to practice law. Supervised by Principals of the Firm who are licensed to practice in Washington, D.C.

Source: click <http://www.bdlaw.com/news-1972.html>

October 12, 2016: Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.: New TSCA Requirements for Chemical Importers

Companies planning to ship chemical-based products to the United States should have a basic understanding of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA),^[1] the key U.S. chemicals law. That law was substantially amended in June 2016.^[2] While a foreign entity is not subject to TSCA, its products generally cannot enter the U.S. without TSCA compliance by its U.S. trading partner who imports the products. This article presents an overview of TSCA as amended from the perspective of an importer. It addresses the scope of TSCA; who must comply; import certification; Inventory requirements; significant new use rules; prioritization, evaluation, and risk management; testing requirements; reporting and recordkeeping requirements; protection of confidential information; new requirements on formaldehyde in composite wood products; and enforcement and penalties.

1. TSCA's Scope

TSCA applies to chemical substances. It defines the term "chemical substance" in part as "any organic or inorganic substance of a particular molecular identity, including any combination of such substances occurring in whole or in part as a result of a chemical reaction or occurring in nature and any element or uncombined radical."^[3] Polymers are subject to TSCA, although some regulatory exemptions may apply. The term "chemical substance" excludes pesticides, which are regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; food, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices, which are regulated under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and related statutes; and radioactive materials, which are regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.^[4] Because these materials fall outside the definition of "chemical substance," they are excluded from TSCA. They would only be subject to TSCA if they had multiple uses, at least one of which is not excluded from TSCA. For example, if a chemical has both drug and industrial uses, then the industrial use would be subject to TSCA.

TSCA can apply to mixtures of chemical substances; to individual chemical substances in mixtures; and to mixtures and individual chemical substances in articles. An "article" is a manufactured item (such as an automobile) formed to a specific shape or design during manufacture whose end use functions depend in part on that shape and which does not react upon end use or, if it does so, the reaction product has no purpose separate from the article.^[5]

2. Who Must Comply?

TSCA imposes most of its requirements on manufacturers of chemical substances. The term "manufacture" is defined to mean "to import into the United States", produce, or manufacture.^[6] In other words, an importer is considered to be a manufacturer under TSCA and is subject to essentially all requirements that apply to a domestic producer of chemical substances. Processors and distributors of chemical substances in the U.S. also have some compliance obligations.

Several different U.S. entities may qualify as an importer. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which implements TSCA, defines "importer" to include the person primarily liable for the payment of any duties on the

merchandise or an authorized agent; the consignee; the importer of record; the actual owner (in some cases); and the transferee (in some cases).[7] The term can also include the "principal importer," i.e., "the first importer who, knowing that a new chemical substance will be imported rather than manufactured domestically, specifies the identity of the chemical substance and the total amount to be imported.[8] This may be the customer for whom the importer imported the chemical substance.

3. Import Certification

U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP), part of the Department of Homeland Security, is directed to refuse entry into the customs territory of the U.S. of any chemical substance, mixture, or article offered for entry if it fails to comply with any rule in effect under TSCA.[9] Every shipment of chemical substances sent to the United States is subject to an import certification requirement. The importer must submit a certification to CBP attesting that all chemicals in the shipment are either in compliance with TSCA (the affirmative certification) or that all chemicals in the shipment are not subject to TSCA (the negative certification).[10] Typically, the customs broker makes the certification on behalf of the importer.

The certification does not apply to chemical substances or mixtures in articles unless EPA has so provided in a rule.[11] As a result, imports of most articles are exempt from import certification requirements. However, as discussed below, EPA recently promulgated a rule requiring import certification for articles containing composite wood made with a formaldehyde-based resin, beginning in 2018.[12]

The import certification focuses on compliance with a limited number of EPA requirements under TSCA: Inventory requirements under sections 5 and 8(b); significant new use rules under section 5; and the formaldehyde in composite wood products requirements under Title VI.[13] Each of these requirements is discussed below.

CBP has proposed amendments to its TSCA import certification regulations.[14] Among other things, the amendments would delete the option for blanket certifications and would allow reporting via the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) system currently being used for other forms of CBP reporting.

4. Inventory Requirements

a. Basic Requirement

An importer must ensure that the chemical substances it imports are on the TSCA Inventory or, if not on the Inventory, are subject to an exemption. The TSCA Inventory lists approximately 84,000 "existing" chemical substances, by Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) number. "New" chemical substances are defined as those not on the TSCA Inventory. [15]

Most chemical substances are on the public Inventory, but some are on the confidential portion of the Inventory, to which access is limited. EPA makes the public Inventory and coded listings on the confidential Inventory available.[16]

It can be difficult to determine whether a chemical substance that does not appear on the public Inventory is on the confidential Inventory or is instead a new chemical substance. EPA has a mechanism by which a prospective importer may inquire, but it is data-intensive.[17]

b. Premanufacture Notification of New Chemical Substances

New chemical substances may be added to the Inventory after undergoing EPA's premanufacture notification and review process.

Specifically, if a chemical substance to be imported is not yet on the TSCA Inventory and is not subject to an exemption, the importer must submit a premanufacture notice (PMN) to EPA at least 90 days before importing the chemical for non-exempt commercial purposes. EPA will hold the principal importer responsible for compliance with this requirement. If there is no principal importer, EPA will designate which entity otherwise qualifying as an importer is responsible for the PMN submission.[18]

The PMN form requires submission of existing information about the chemical substance.[19] Unlike in many jurisdictions, TSCA does not mandate that specific test data be submitted with the notice, such that the test data must be generated if not already available to the submitter. In the absence of test data, EPA will review the PMN using models and conservative assumptions to extrapolate data that is available on structurally analogous chemicals.

Currently, there is a \$2,500 fee for submission of a PMN for chemicals other than intermediates; for intermediates, the fee is \$1,000. There are reduced fees for small businesses.[20] Section 26(b) was amended to remove the ceilings on those fees. They are expected to increase in 2017, once EPA amends its regulation on fees.

c. Confidential Chemical Identities

If as part of a PMN the submitter asks EPA to keep the identity of a new chemical substance confidential, then special steps must be taken to ensure that confidentiality. The recent TSCA amendments provide that a claim for protection from disclosure of a specific chemical identity must include a "structurally descriptive generic name" and be substantiated.[21] EPA already has regulations meeting some those requirements.[22]

d. Exemptions

Some new chemical substances may be exempt from PMN requirements under certain conditions. For example, a new chemical substance imported as part of an article is exempt.[23] (Note that this exemption does not cover chemical substances intended to be removed from containers which are articles.) In addition, there are exemptions for a chemical substance that is an impurity (meaning that it is unintentionally present); a byproduct (meaning it was produced without separate commercial intent), but only for strictly limited uses); or imported solely for export.[24] New chemical substances may be imported for research and development purposes, if the importer meets certain administrative requirements.[25]

Some polymers may be eligible for a limited polymer exemption. EPA specifies criteria for what will qualify a polymer for the exemption and what will disqualify it. The exemption involves recordkeeping, certification, and reporting requirements. This exemption is self-implementing, meaning that the prospective importer or domestic manufacturer is not required to submit an application to EPA for its review.[26]

New chemical substances to be imported or domestically manufactured in amounts of 10,000 kg/year or less may be approved through submission of a low volume exemption application.[27]

e. EPA's Assessment of PMNs

During the PMN review period, EPA may determine that a PMN substance presents an unreasonable risk under the conditions of use, in which case it will proceed to rulemaking to restrict or ban the substance. Alternatively, EPA may decide that the PMN substance may present an unreasonable risk under the conditions of use, or that it meets certain other criteria, in which case EPA will issue an order or consent order banning or restricting the substance, or requiring the PMN submitter to conduct testing. Finally, EPA may determine that a PMN substance is not likely to present an unreasonable risk under the conditions of use, in which case the PMN submitter may commence non-exempt manufacture or import of the substance.[28] In each case, EPA will post a summary of its determination on its website, subject to confidentiality claims.

The PMN review period is generally 90 days. If during that period EPA determines that the PMN substance is not likely to cause an unreasonable risk, EPA will so notify the PMN submitter, who can then proceed to commence manufacture or import without waiting for the 90-day period to expire.[29] Alternatively, EPA may identify a concern, which typically results in a request to the submitter to agree to suspend the review period to facilitate further review. If the PMN submitter does not agree, EPA may extend the PMN review period for up to an additional 90 days.[30] If the submitter is unable to resolve EPA's concern, EPA will likely issue an order imposing restrictions on the chemical.[31]

Once a PMN submitter begins manufacture or import after the end of the PMN review period, it must submit to EPA a notice of commencement of manufacture or import within 30 days of commencement.[32] This will cause EPA to add the PMN substance to the TSCA Inventory.

5. Significant New Use Rules

Following the end of the PMN review period, EPA may decide to promulgate a significant new use rule (SNUR) for the PMN substance. EPA may also adopt a SNUR for an existing chemical substance that did not go through the PMN review process.

A SNUR will apply to any importer, domestic manufacturer, or processor of the SNUR substance. At least 90 days before beginning to engage in the significant new use described in the SNUR, an affected person must submit a significant new use notice (SNUN) to EPA for review. The SNUN and SNUN review process are essentially identical to the PMN and PMN review process. As with a PMN, during the SNUN review period, EPA may determine that the SNUR substance presents an unreasonable risk under the conditions of use, in which case it will proceed to rulemaking to restrict or ban the substance. Alternatively, EPA may decide that the SNUR substance may present an unreasonable risk under the conditions of use, or that it meets certain other criteria, in which case EPA will issue an order or consent order banning or restricting the substance, or requiring the SNUN submitter to conduct testing. Finally, EPA may determine that a SNUR substance is not likely to present an unreasonable risk under the conditions of use, in which case the PMN submitter may commence non-exempt manufacture or import of the substance. In each case, EPA will post a summary of its determination on its website, subject to confidentiality claims.

In most cases, the importation of a SNUR substance as part of an article will be exempt from the SNUR.[33] In selected cases, however, EPA may decide to apply a SNUR to a SNUR chemical imported as part of an article.[34] Before doing so, due to a new provision of TSCA, EPA must determine that application of the SNUR to articles is necessary to protect against exposure the SNUR substance in articles.[35]

6. Prioritization, Risk Evaluation, and Risk Management

As amended, TSCA requires EPA to identify chemical substances that are high priorities for risk evaluations; evaluate the health and environmental risks of those substances; and decide, without regard to cost or other non-risk factors, whether a high-priority substance presents an unreasonable risk.[36] Importers and domestic manufacturers may also request that risk evaluations will be conducted for chemical substances that have not been identified as high priority,[37] subject to the requirement that they pay a fee to cover either 50% or 100% of the cost of the risk evaluation.[38] EPA will conduct a risk evaluation,[39] including notice and comment for draft evaluation report, and may promulgate a rule regulating the chemical substance.[40]

While EPA has discretion to select the chemical substances that it will assess, it must identify an initial ten substances by December 2016 from the list of 90 chemical substances and chemical categories on the 2014 TSCA Work Plan substances list.[41] At least 50% of the additional chemical substances it selects for evaluation by December 2019 must also be from that list.[42]

The risk evaluation will explain EPA's determination that a chemical substance either presents an unreasonable risk to health or the environment under the conditions of use, or that it does not present such a risk.[43] If EPA finds that the chemical substance does present an unreasonable risk, it must adopt a rule mandating risk management, possibly including a ban.[44]

7. Testing Requirements

Unlike some other jurisdictions, TSCA does not include base set testing requirements. A recent amendment to EPA's authority to require testing under section 4 provides that information required under that authority "shall not be required for the purposes of establishing or implementing a minimum information requirement of broader applicability.[45]

Nevertheless, EPA can require manufacturers (including importers) and processors to conduct testing. Formerly, EPA could only do so through test rules or testing consent orders. Under the TSCA amendments, it may also do so by order.[46] This new order authority is expected to increase the amount of testing that EPA requires, since it is much more efficient than rulemaking.

If an importer is subject to a test rule or a test order, it may request a conditional exemption from the testing requirement, so long as others also subject to that testing requirement do agree to conduct the testing.[47] EPA's grant of an exemption request may trigger a requirement to pay equitable reimbursement to those who conduct the testing.[48] EPA has rules governing data reimbursement,[49] but historically, parties have worked out financial arrangements among themselves.

8. Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements

Under section 8, importers and others may be required to report information to EPA or to keep certain records.

Under section 8(a), every four years, importers and domestic manufacturers must report information on the quantities, uses, and other information about chemical substances that they import or manufacture above the applicable threshold, either 25,000 pounds/year or 2,500 pounds/year.[50] This Chemical Data Reporting rule (CDR) does not apply to polymers or to naturally-occurring chemicals, but most other chemical substances are covered. The most recent reporting deadline is October 31, 2016, covering 2012-2015. The next CDR report will be due September 30, 2020, covering 2016-2019. Information to be reported includes a signed and dated certification statement from the submitter company; company and plant site addresses and parent company name and Dun and Bradstreet DUNS number; and chemical-specific information.

Under section 8(b) as amended, importers and others must identify to EPA those chemicals that they imported or domestically manufactured during the ten years prior to enactment of the 2016 amendments.[51] EPA must adopt a rule implementing this requirement by June 2017, and reports will be due six months later. EPA will use the information to prepare an "active substances" list. Thereafter, prior to importing, domestically manufacturing, or processing a chemical substance not on that list, a person must notify EPA that it should add the substance to the list.

Under section 8(c), importers must maintain records of significant adverse reactions, both in health and environment. EPA has implementing regulations,[52] and may require submission of such records.

Importers may be required to list or submit health and safety studies for the chemical substances they import if those

chemicals are subject to a rule adopted under section 8(d). EPA has implementing regulations,[53] but has not used this authority for several years.

Section 8(e) requires manufacturers (including importers) and others to report to EPA immediately any information that reasonably supports the conclusion that a chemical presents a substantial risk of injury to health or the environment, unless EPA is already aware of the information. EPA has implementing guidance.[54] This can create a reporting obligation for importers who also have access to such information submitted under REACH or other regulatory systems when EPA does not have access to the information.

Finally, an importer who subsequently exports chemical substances may also be subject to reporting obligations under section 12(b). EPA's regulations limit reporting to the first export of certain listed chemicals to a particular country or the first export of other listed chemicals to a particular country in a calendar year.[55] The list of chemicals subject to export notification requirements at this time appears on EPA's website.[56]

9. Protection of Confidential Information

The recent TSCA amendments substantially revised the requirements for protection of confidential business information in section 14. Claims made post-enactment must be substantiated,[57] and claims will last a maximum of ten years, subject to renewal.[58] Chemical identities claimed confidential must be accompanied by a structurally-descriptive generic name.[59] EPA will assign a "unique identifier" to information related to a confidential chemical identity.[60]

10. Formaldehyde in Composite Wood Products

In July 2016, EPA adopted formaldehyde standards for composite wood products under section 601 of TSCA.[61] These standards set formaldehyde emissions limits for composite wood products based on similar requirements of California's Air Resources Board.[62] However, EPA's standards go beyond the California requirements.

EPA's standards apply to both composite wood products and finished goods (or component parts of finished goods) that contain any amount of composite wood products. There is no exemption for a de minimis amount of composite wood products in a finished good, other than with respect to the labeling requirement. Among other things, the EPA standards require importers to submit TSCA import certifications to CBP, beginning in 2018. Importers must ensure that their foreign suppliers meet the testing, certification, and labeling requirements of the standards. Importers may be required to recall or otherwise address non-complying products. For additional information, see the Beveridge & Diamond alert on the EPA standards.[63]

11. Enforcement and Penalties

EPA may bring an enforcement action against an importer or others for alleged civil violations of TSCA or EPA regulations. If contested, the enforcement action will be heard by an administrative law judge, subject to review by the EPA Environmental Appeals Board and then by a federal court of appeals.[64]

As amended, the maximum civil penalty under TSCA is \$37,500 for each violation.[65] EPA considers that some violations, such as those under section 8(e), incur daily penalties. For PMN violations, EPA considers each day of importation of a non-exempt chemical not on the TSCA Inventory to be a separate violation. For PMN and some other TSCA violations, there is a five-year statute of limitations.[66] For section 8(e) violations, there is no statute of limitations, according to the Environmental Appeals Board.[67]

Criminal penalties may also be assessed for knowing or willful violations of TSCA or EPA regulations. Maximum criminal penalties are \$50,000 per day and imprisonment for one year.[68]

Source: click <http://www.bdlaw.com/news-1971.html>

October 05, 2016: Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.: EPA Issues "National Port Strategy Assessment: Reducing Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gases at U.S. Ports"

On September 22, 2016, EPA issued a report titled "National Port Strategy Assessment: Reducing Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gases at U.S. Ports" (the "Assessment").[1] According to EPA, the Assessment supports the goal of EPA's "Ports Initiative[2] to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases through collaboration among industry, government, and communities. Notably, EPA urges state and local governments, ports and port operators, Tribes, communities and other stakeholders to use the Assessment to inform their priorities and port-related decision making, and to achieve more emission reductions across the United States.

Industry stakeholders should closely monitor developments that come on the heels of the Assessment. It bears watching, for example, whether state and local governments will take action - and what kind of action (voluntary measures, or command and control regulations) - to reduce port-related emissions.

Key Findings

Recognizing the vital role ports play in the United States economy - and that ports are set to expand significantly to meet economic and infrastructure demands going forward - EPA developed this national scale assessment to examine current and future emissions from various diesel sources operating in port areas and to consider potential strategies to reduce emissions from port-related trucks, locomotives, cargo handling equipment, harbor craft, and ocean-going vessels.

Key findings in the Assessment include:

Port-related diesel emissions, especially PM_{2.5}, NO_x and air toxics, impact public health. Port related diesel emissions, such as CO₂ and black carbon, also contribute to climate change.

The Assessment provides "options to inform voluntary, place-based actions that may be taken by federal, state, and local governments, Tribes, ports, communities, and other stakeholders to reduce these impacts and enhance public health and the environmental protection."

Progress is already happening, but more emission reductions are possible.

EPA's technology standards and fuel sulfur limits are expected to significantly reduce emissions as new diesel trucks, locomotives, cargo handling equipment and ships enter the fleet, and some stakeholders have also adopted voluntary strategies to reduce emissions such as those advocated in the Assessment. EPA hopes the Assessment "will encourage more areas to adopt and incentivize such voluntary programs."

Emissions can be reduced with effective strategies that are currently available.

EPA claims that currently available strategies, including electrification, can be used to reduce emissions. The Assessment provides the following table of such strategies:

Source: click <http://www.bdlaw.com/news-1969.html>

October 03, 2016: Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.: Latin American Environmental Regulatory Tracker

Beveridge & Diamond's Latin American Environmental Practice publishes a monthly tracker that lists pending and recently enacted environmental laws and regulations in several Latin American countries. Click to read the October 2016 issue.

Source: click <http://www.bdlaw.com/news-1968.html>

September 27, 2016: Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.; Recent Changes to the Massachusetts Zoning Act and Smart Growth Zoning

Recently, the Massachusetts Legislature enacted and Gov. Baker signed into law several important changes to the Massachusetts Zoning Act, General Laws chapter 40A, and the Smart Growth Zoning and Housing Production Act, General Laws chapter 40R.

Summaries of these amendments are as follows:

New Starter Home Initiative. Sections 37 through 54 of Chapter 219 of the Acts of 2016, St. 2016, Ch. 219, amend General Laws chapter 40R, Smart Growth Zoning and Housing Production, by creating a new "Starter Home" program. Municipalities can now create Starter Home Districts on land areas greater than three (3) acres with a minimum density of 4 units per acre and dimensional zoning requirements that may differ from the underlying zoning which emphasize cluster development, common open space and low-impact development techniques. Homes may be no larger than 1850 SF and at least 50 percent of the units must have three (3) bedrooms. Communities establishing a Starter Home district will be eligible for incentive payments from the state for the creation of the district and housing within the district. At least 20 percent of the homes in the district must be affordable and occupied by households with incomes at or below 100% of Area Median Income. The new Starter Home law provides developers and communities with a much needed tool to provide desperately needed workforce housing. Under Section 140 of Chapter 219 the Starter Home law takes on January 1, 2017. Efforts are underway to create implementing regulations. Lengthened Building and Special Permit Immunity to Zoning Change. Prior to the recent approval of Section 29 of Chapter 219 of the Acts of 2016, St. 2016, Ch. 219, General Laws chapter 40A, (Section) 6, provided that the recipient of a Building or Special Permit who failed to begin construction or use within six (6) months must conform to subsequent zoning amendments. Typically, such zoning changes are aimed at undermining the proposed project which is the subject of the permit. The Act doubles the time within which the permittee can commence construction or operations under the Building or Special Permit from six

(6) months to twelve (12) months. This lengthier period provides developers with additional time to obtain financing or secure other necessary approvals and begin construction or use without fear of a zoning change that might otherwise nullify the project. Since the Act was approved by the Governor with an Emergency Preamble, this law immediately took effect on August 11, 2016. Longer Special Permit Term. The approval of Section 30 of Chapter 219 of the Acts of 2016, St. 2016, Ch. 219, broadened chapter 40A, (Section) 9, governing Special Permits by extending from two (2) years to three (3) years the term of a Special Permit. This change now gives developers three full years to either commence construction or substantial use. This feature better allows owners and developers to adapt their construction schedule to economic, labor, and market conditions without having to seek an extension from the special permit-granting authority. Section 30 also took effect immediately on August 11, 2016. Broader Protection for Non-Compliant Structures. Previously, structures failing to meet zoning requirements were considered non-compliant with zoning even after the expiration of either the six-year statute of limitations in the case of structures complying with the original building permit or the ten-year limitations period in all other cases. As a result, non-compliant structures could not be altered, extended or reconstructed without a variance. Now, the Act Relative to Nonconforming Structures, Chapter 184 of the Acts of 2016, St. 2016, Ch. 184, provides that non-compliant structures in existence for ten years without the recording of a notice of a lawsuit claiming a zoning violation in the registry of deeds "shall, for zoning purposes, be deemed to be legally non-conforming structures" subject to G.L. c. 40A, (Section) 6, and any local provisions governing non-conformities. Property owners now have the ability to seek the less stringent relief of a (Section) 6 finding or special permit rather than a variance in order to alter, extend or reconstruct non-compliant structures. Chapter 184 provides that the provisions of the law are applicable regardless of whether the structure was erected prior to or after the effective date of the Act. It also contains language that gives municipalities an additional six months to take action on certain non-complying structures. The bill was signed by the Governor on August 4, 2016 and takes effect 90 days later on November 2, 2016.

Beveridge & Diamond provides the complete range of land use, environmental and litigation services to property owners, developers, builders, government agencies and trade associations before local, state and federal administrative agencies and courts for residential, commercial and industrial projects. For more information on these changes and their implications, please contact Brian Levey.

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October 17, 2016: Weld for Birmingham, LLC: The "Administrative Black Hole"

10/20/2016

News Bites - Private Companies

Several national immigration advocacy groups have released a joint report detailing alleged failures by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States District Court of Northern Alabama to provide detainees at the Etowah County Detention Center the ability to file habeas corpus petitions.

Families for Freedom (FFF), working in conjunction with the Immigrant Rights Clinic at New York University School of Law report, "shocking and alarming patterns of ICE abuse, incompetence and deceit towards the detainees as well as the courts," particularly as it pertains to detainees being granted their legal rights.

The Etowah County Detention Center is contracted out by ICE to hold immigrant detainees, many of whom are stateless asylum seekers awaiting deportation hearings. As has been previously reported, some immigrants languish for years inside the ECDC, which does not have an outdoor recreation area. In order to meet human rights requirements, the facility has small openings covered in fencing on the fifth floor.

"In Etowah, the overwhelming majority - 94.2 percent - of detainees were unrepresented, only underscoring the need for meaningful engagement by the court," the report reads. "The Court failed to adhere to the guidelines of the habeas statute - they provided the government with unreasonably long periods to respond to habeas petitions, then summarily granted every extension sought by [ICE] and they never held a single evidentiary hearing."

A habeas corpus petition is used to allow prisoners the opportunity to come before the court so that a judgment can be made as to whether or not that person is being lawfully detained.

The report cites a U.S. Supreme Court case, *Zadvydas v. Davis* which set a precedent for the way the government detains stateless immigrants. The court ruled that in order to detain individuals for longer than six months, the government must provide evidence that removal will take place in the immediate future.

Advocates for immigration reform have long pointed to the ECDC as "an administrative black hole" in which immigrants can become lost in the system for years at a time.

Naveed Azam, an asylum seeker from Bangladesh, has spent 6 years in ICE custody, many of them at the ECDC. Azam and his family fled to the U.S., by way of Saudi Arabia, after a political coup overthrew President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in 1990. Azam, then 17, was a student protester who opposed Ershad and was badly beaten as a result, he said.

In a letter written to Weld from inside the ECDC, Azam detailed his struggles while trying to petition the courts for release. "The lives of many detainees are in limbo and in peril because ICE refuses to release them," Azam wrote. "Many detainees like me are afraid to return to back to their birth country because of the persecution we have faced there and so many of us are fighting the court to stay here, where [a] majority of us have our own families to take care of."

Because of "tremendous credible fear for [his] life," Azam said he has refused to board a plane to Bangladesh on seven different occasions, most recently on April 4, 2016. "The system is rigged from the get go and is favored against us," Azam wrote. "I have exhausted all my means these past six years in detention. My financial resources have embarrassingly been depleted. I help other detainees in here with their legal work. Most do not have any representation and do not speak English good or articulated. They do not have the understanding to litigate their immigration cases." Photo by Cody Owens.

Photo by Cody Owens.

The FFF report points to the court's failure to grant habeas petitions to detainees in ECDC. "In the five-year period we analyzed in this report, the court also did not grant a single habeas petition. In many cases, ICE either removed or released detainees before the court decided on the habeas petition and in other cases, the court denied the petition," the report reads.

By law, courts are required to quickly issue an order to show cause directed at the person in custody, the report states. "Despite the fact the statute calls for a response within three days (and sets a maximum of 23 days), in 100 percent of the cases filed in the last five years, the court has routinely granted the government 30 days to respond. This 30-day period is longer than the maximum amount of time allowed under the statute, even in exceptional circumstances."

Bryan Cox, Southern region communications director for ICE, denied any wrongdoing on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE is a division of DHS.

"ICE is committed to enforcing our nation's immigration laws effectively and sensibly in accordance with federal law and agency policy," Cox said. "As part of those policies, ICE's civil detention system reduces transfers while maximizing access to legal counsel and visitation. ICE provides several levels of oversight in order to ensure that detainees in ICE custody reside in safe, secure and humane environments and under appropriate conditions of confinement. Oversight is provided by on-site Detention Service Managers employed by ICE, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations' Detention Standards Compliance Unit, ICE Office of Detention Oversight, and the DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, all of whom have open access to ICE detention facilities."

ECDC representatives could not be reached for comment.

Earlier this year, Weld requested in-person interviews with several detainees. The approval process took three months, after representatives initially said it would take about five days. Before the interviews took place, ICE informed a reporter that the interviews would not take place, citing "security concerns" that were never explained. Detainees who have been in contact with Weld describe similar difficulties getting in touch with family members due in part to the relatively remote location of the detention center and the fact that visits must be coordinated through ICE's office in New Orleans, seven hours away from ECDC.

Source: click <http://weldbham.com/blog/2016/10/17/the-administrative-black-hole/>

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SECTION 1 WELD FOR BIRMINGHAM, LLC ACTIVITIES

Weld for Birmingham, LLC operates as a media company which provides a Birmingham-centric blogging network and publishes an affiliated weekly newspaper. The company was incorporated in 2010 and is based in Birmingham, Alabama.

SECTION 2 WELD FOR BIRMINGHAM, LLC PROFILE

Website: <http://www.weldbham.com>

Industry: Software and Technology Services

SECTION 3 BUSINESS NEWS ROUND UP

October 18, 2016: Weld for Birmingham, LLC: The One-Cent Swindle

In 2004 the Jefferson County Commission, under then President Larry Langford, passed an ordinance to use a one-cent sales tax for public school construction countywide. The bill authorizing the sales tax was a bill of general application, a bill that any county in Alabama could use for public school purposes. The county elected to impose a one-cent sales tax making the total county sales tax 10 cents. That one-cent sales tax generated \$80 million each year for Jefferson County and allowed the county to go to the bond market in 2004-5 to borrow \$1 billion for new schools to be constructed.

By 2009 the schools had been built and the tax was generating \$100 million annually. Only \$70 million was required to pay down the bond debt. The other \$30 million had to be put into an early debt repayment fund. By 2014 the early debt repayment fund had over \$150 million, and it has over \$200 million today. Yet the county falsely told the public it had to file bankruptcy because it was unable to pay its debts. The entire school construction debt could be paid off by 2021 and the sales tax would then be reduced by one cent countywide. Another possible option was that once the debt was paid off, each municipality in Jefferson County could generate their own one-cent tax and use it any way they pleased. This option is allowed by law and only requires a majority vote of each city council.

In 2015 the Jefferson County delegation, led by Reps. Jim Carns and Oliver Robinson, assisted by Jefferson County Commission leadership, saw another route to get their hands on the sales tax money. They would bypass the state constitution and simply write a bill of local application (Act 2015-226) taking the income from the tax. They would split up the money between the county commission and the legislators, including slush funds totaling \$100,000 for each Jefferson County House member and over \$200,000 for each Jefferson County state senator.

The Committee to Save Jefferson County (CSJC) attorneys Calvin Grigsby and David Sullivan filed a lawsuit charging that the county's taking the sales tax for their general fund - as opposed to public school purposes - was unconstitutional, violating the stated purpose of the original 2004 bill on the grounds that they were attempting to change a general bill to a local bill and enforce a sales tax without a vote of the people. In response to our filing, every judge in Jefferson County refused to hear the case and recused themselves!

The CSJC found a judge in Winston County to hear the case. Meanwhile, in response to the suit by Sullivan and Grigsby, the county filed a counter suit - called a validation lawsuit - which would issue \$500 million in debt backed by the illegal transfer of the sales tax from public school purposes to the county commission. Miraculously, Jefferson County Judge Mike Graffeo un-recused himself to hear the validation suit, and Sullivan and Grigsby agreed to transfer their Winston County declaratory judgment suit and consolidate it with the county validation suit.

Attorneys James E. Fleanor and Wilson F. Green then responded to the combined validation and declaratory judgment suit charging that the Jefferson County legislative delegation did not have a quorum present when they voted for the bill! Judge Mike Graffeo ruled that the bill failed because of a lack of quorum but did not rule on the more serious charge - the effort of the legislature to change the nature of the original bill from a general to a local bill without the people's vote. The CSJC lawyers appealed Graffeo's decision on constitutional grounds to the Alabama Supreme Court, which is where our case stands now.

In a last ditch effort to get their hands on that school tax money, the Jefferson County legislative leadership has offered a sneaky citizens referendum (Amendment 14) for the November ballot calling for the citizens of Jefferson County to validate all the local bills passed without a quorum in past sessions. Only two bills (not 600! - their lie) actually meet the statute of limitations for challenges and both are in court already; one in Chilton County and ours.

Since our case is now at the State Supreme Court, we charge that theirs is an effort to inhibit the right of the Court to rule. Most recently, their attorneys have filed a motion with the courts asking that our case on constitutionality be postponed until after the November 8th election (supposedly when their referendum would appear on the ballot). If that were to happen, and the citizens voted for the referendum, our case would be considered moot. We answered their motion to postpone, charging there was no basis for using their Amendment 14 - meant to cover their illegal acts - to affect our lawsuit being heard in a timely fashion. We will also challenge the legality of Amendment 14 in court.

Desperate acts by greedy, self-serving legislators and county commissioners.

The language of Amendment 14 does not indicate its intention to overturn Judge Graffeo's decision. They are attempting to seduce the public into being co-conspirators in their action by including the wording, "There is no cost for Amendment 14 (emphasis added)." Their sole purpose is to steal our school tax money! If Amendment 14 comes before you as a referendum, vote no! And remember these thieves on election day.

Bob Friedman is a plaintiff in the case before the Alabama Supreme Court against Amendment 14. In the interest of full disclosure, Friedman also works in distribution for Weld. The newspaper is not a party to the lawsuit.

Source: click <http://weldbham.com/blog/2016/10/18/the-one-cent-swindle/>

October 12, 2016: Weld for Birmingham, LLC: State prisons under federal investigation

The dysfunction in Alabama's prison system - one that operates at about 192 percent capacity and with only a fraction of the correctional officers required to keep prisoners safe - has been well documented over the last several years. So word last week that the Department of Justice had begun an investigation into the condition at the state's men's prisons came as no surprise to anyone involved in corrections and justice.

"There is a hostile environment in prisons, and we have been saying this for years," said Kenneth Glasgow, a spokesperson for the Free Alabama Movement, a group of prisoners who want to shine a light on what they call inhumane conditions in most of Alabama's prisons.

The D.O.J. investigation into the conditions in Alabama's 14 prisons for men will focus on whether prisoners are adequately protected from physical harm and sexual abuse at the hands of other prisoners; whether prisoners are adequately protected from use of excessive force and staff sexual abuse by correctional officers; and whether the prisons provide sanitary, secure and safe living conditions.

Glasgow, a former inmate in Alabama and Florida who now advocates for improved re-entry assistance for released prisoners, said he expects the investigation to uncover serious infractions in each of those areas. "The Alabama Department of Corrections is not going to be able to hide the deplorable conditions, lack of medical treatment and the brutality that has happened in those prisons," he said.

Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative said his organization welcomes the investigation. "We are seeing an unprecedented number of murders, rapes, torture and abuse in state prisons, sometimes by officers or with officer involvement, and immediate reforms are urgently needed," he said. "Officers are not safe, prisoners are not safe and the public is not being well served."

This is not the first time allegations of abuse and inhumane conditions has brought about an investigation of an Alabama prison. The D.O.J. in 2014 concluded a two-year investigation into sexual abuse allegations at Tutwiler Prison for Women, which found that prisoners had been subjected to a pattern of sexual abuse by correctional officers.

That DOJ investigation lead to many changes in the administration at Tutwiler and called for the creation of a new position - deputy commissioner of Women's Services - and mandated that the prison would put into place a quality assurance program to track and analyze data to ensure that sexual abuse and harassment is being adequately prevented, detected and responded to.

"Our obligation is to protect the civil rights of all citizens, including those who are incarcerated," said U.S. Attorney Joyce White Vance of the Northern District of Alabama in a statement last week regarding the current investigation. "This investigation provides us with an opportunity to work collaboratively with the state of Alabama to assess current conditions and ensure constitutionally sufficient conditions exist for all prisoners."

Source: click <http://weldbham.com/blog/2016/10/12/state-prisons-under-federal-investigation/>

September 28, 2016: Weld for Birmingham, LLC; "It was morally wrong"

Birmingham School Board members disagree over superintendent's termination 'without cause' and at least one disputes allegations that she did anything improper. Photo by Cody Owens.

Photo by Cody Owens.

While the news of the sudden departure of former Birmingham Superintendent Kelley Castlin-Gacutan may have come as a shock to some, those close to the situation believe a rift has been evident between her administration and members of the board for some time now, due in part to a pattern of "financial discrepancies" cited by those who voted her out.

The dissenting members of the board, however, have questioned whether there is evidence to justify her removal from office and why it has not been made public.

"Being an elected official doesn't make you a leader. That was failed leadership, what we did last night," said board member Randall Woodfin, speaking the day after the firing. "Leaders speak out when something is wrong. It was morally wrong what we did last night. Period." Woodfin was one of the three board members who voted against Gacutan's termination along with Brian Giattina and Lyord Watson.

"If she had done something wrong, she wouldn't have been fired without cause. We can't have it both ways," Woodfin said. "Let's not take the subject off bad board governance, which is what this is. This is a leadership crisis. Dr. G. is no longer our superintendent. This conversation is no longer about her. If we're going to talk about her, let's not mischaracterize or defame her character and say she misused or misallocated anything because that's not true."

BCS attorney Afrika Parchman also said that Gacutan was fired without cause and will be paid a severance totaling more than \$400,000 over the course of the next two years.

Woodfin believes that superintendents hit a political brick wall when one (or all) of the following things happen: "A superintendent makes personnel recommendations and board members disagree with and can't control it, a superintendent makes brick and mortar recommendations that board members can't control, a superintendent gets into a space where board members can't see past their districts and don't see the system as a whole. The worst is when we - as a board - think we are the superintendent's boss - the 'superintendent needs to do what we say' mentality."

A look at the board's recent voting history, as it pertains to personnel actions recommended by Gacutan, reflects a fissure between the former superintendent and those who voted her out of office.

On May 10, 2016, Gacutan brought a personnel recommendation before the board to replace Mario Lumzy as the principal of Inglenook Elementary, an action that falls under the contractual responsibilities of the superintendent as prescribed by the board statute.

The action failed with votes against it coming from Sandra Brown, Sherman Collins, April Williams and Daayge Hendricks (who represents the district which includes Inglenook) and one abstention from Cheri Gardner. All of those who voted to keep the current Inglenook principal, plus Gardner, would later vote to terminate Gacutan's contract.

The issue involving Inglenook persisted for another month. During a special called board meeting on May 24, a number of community members showed up to voice support for Lumzy. A motion was made by Gardner to suspend the rules in order to allow members of the community to speak. The motion did not carry and Hendricks abruptly left and went outside with her constituents. There was no vote for principal recommendations during that meeting.

On June 14 the principal recommendation was brought up again, this time with Brown, Collins, Gardner and Hendricks all voting against the personnel action a second time. By the next meeting Gacutan had stopped pressing the issue and the board unanimously approved the motion to keep Lumzy as principal.

Hendricks said that opposition for that personnel action began and ended with members of her community that elected her to represent them and that she was not motivated by "pettiness." She claimed the decision was made to "protect the school district as a whole" and the 24,000 children who are a part of it.

"I did not in any way try and influence that at all," Hendricks said of her decision to vote against the principal recommendation. "I listened to their suggestions. [Inglenook] was a choice school and has been for five years. So when you have 18 failing schools in the district I couldn't understand why this was a priority when the other schools are failing. I did not in any way fuel that. I allowed Dr. G to make her decision and I disagreed. It wasn't the first time we disagreed. We all moved on. As far as prioritization she had not been here that long so I assumed that decision she was making was possibly because she hadn't been around long enough to know the successes in that school."

While Hendricks cited repeated instances of fiscal irresponsibility as the reason for Gacutan's termination, Woodfin said that the board has not launched an investigation into a misappropriation of funds.

"If [Gacutan] breached something, where is the record that says 'let's fire her with cause?'" Woodfin said. "I'm very, very tired of people saying this is about the children. I wish people would stop saying that. Because it's not true. That's offensive. If it's about the children and school just started last month, we wouldn't have done what we did last night."

Hendricks said that one big issue with Gacutan as head of the school system related to \$2.5 million the board approved for a reading initiative that had been recommended by the superintendent.

"There were million-dollar decisions that were made that we usually voted in agreement," Hendricks said. "I would

venture to say 85 to 95 percent of the things presented to us we approved as a board, collectively. So to be coined as someone who made a hasty decision or didn't care, that's just not true." Hendricks added that students still do not have the books for the new reading initiative.

When asked specifically why no evidence of money being misused - as Hendricks and other members of the board have cited as the reason for the ousting - was presented to the board as a whole or the public, she replied, "I received an article just the other day that someone had sent out and they provided actual links to some of the line items that were done without our approval and the dollar amounts associated. The board wants to maintain a good image for our children and a mature professional image in front of our staff' Every effort was made to do that. We didn't want to be a 'gotcha' board and mislead the employees. We didn't want the community to be aware of those problems either because we were trying to work together."

Hendricks said that not providing any evidence of Gacutan illegally misusing funds to the public was due to an "effort to be fair and equitable to our leadership." Hendricks said she could see how members of the public might perceive a discrepancy between allegations that Gacutan misused funds and the fact that she was fired without cause. "I understand. I do. Listen, this was not an easy decision. It was a sad day. It was something that I personally had to pray about and I took a lot of time before I made that decision.

"You have choices in life. You lose millions of dollars and continue to do so by making bad decisions or you make hard decisions that are in the best interests," Hendricks said, adding that she wished the media had covered the board's actions more before last week's vote. "Unfortunately we only have these conversations once things are looking in a bad light," Hendricks said. "This didn't come up over night."

Source: click <http://weldbham.com/blog/2016/09/28/it-was-morally-wrong-birmingham-superintendent-firing/>

September 27, 2016: Weld for Birmingham, LLC; Design Review: September 22, 2016

Recapping the decisions made at the September 14 meeting of the Design Review Committee. Image courtesy of the Jones Valley Teaching Farm.

Image courtesy of the Jones Valley Teaching Farm.

Twice a month, the city of Birmingham's Design Review Committee convenes at the Auburn Urban Studio to discuss plans to make alterations to structures that fall within one of the city's many historic and commercial revitalization districts. This column summarizes recent DRC activity, with projects grouped by type and location. This edition of Design Review recaps the DRC meeting from September 14, 2016.

Commercial Projects

Cultural District

Jones Valley Teaching Farm (701 25th St. N.) will be constructing their Center for Food Education, which will replace a temporary structure currently on the property. The new building will include a kitchen, deck, office and classroom. The look of the building will share design elements with Jones Valley's existing school campuses. They will be keeping the existing greenhouse. The grade at the entrance will be lowered. Storage will be located at the site of the current chicken coop. Four monument signs will be added to each corner of the block, replacing the two plywood signs already existing on the property. The pea gravel will be replaced with pervious marking material. The opportunity for increased signage and potentially a mural was also discussed. The landscape and hardscape portions of the project will return to the committee.

Status: Approved

Lakeview

The construction and installation of the raised deck volleyball court at Side Bar (2929 Seventh Ave. S.) met with safety concerns regarding the sand and deck. The updated plans include increasing the size by 20 feet to accommodate a 10-foot sand buffer on either side of the court. A small, covered structure will also be added upon approval by zoning. The owner recently discovered the main building's roof will also need to be replaced.

Status: Approved

Representatives from Babalou (2808 Seventh Ave. S.) presented plans for a patio enclosure. This metal structure will include a motorized, louvered roof and a screen for outdoor dining during inclement weather.

Status: Approved, with material samples sent to staff

Midtown

Renovations at Cook Family Dentistry (530 32nd St. S.) were proposed to the committee. The interior updates are currently underway. Exterior renovations include adding an ipe wood screen to the facade at the front transom and under the storefront windows, a sign mounted to the wall above the entry, a "Smile Birmingham" mural along Sixth Avenue South. The signage will be brushed aluminum letters, plus a logo and gooseneck lights. While the colors for the mural had not yet been determined, the committee recommended the use of bright colors. The mural will return to the committee with plans for the landscaping and lighting.

Status: Approved, with material samples to be sent to the city

Signage Projects

Parkside

On the agenda was a proposed Master Signage Plan for Midtown Center (1801 First Ave. S.). However, no one representing the Midtown Center was present at the meeting.

Status: Carried over

Signage for the new Sunbelt Parkside Hotel (250 18th St. S.) came before the committee. The signage includes two blade signs, an entry sign and two wall mount cabinets that will bear the names Hilton Garden Inn and Home 2 Suites. The Parkside logo will also be painted on the dumpster enclosure.

Status: Approved, one refusal

The updated signage presentation for Camp Smile-a-Mile (1600 Second Ave. S.) includes a projecting sign, plate lettering and a window graphic. The camp's monkey logo will be on a perforated metal screen. The plate letters on the non-illuminated sign will be red. The blade sign will be LED illuminated.

Status: Approved

Residential Projects

Norwood

A restoration project (1233 33rd St. N.) was approved by the neighborhood. The new owners will be returning the wood details and removing siding. The brown and cream colors will be matched to the existing colors.

Status: Approved, with color samples submitted to staff

Redmont Park

Three residential renovation projects in the Redmont Park neighborhood came before the committee.

First, plans for a restoration of a 1928 house (3217 Carlisle Rd.) called for a driveway relocation, guest parking, window restoration, door replacement, paint and roofing. The neighborhood association approved the project with the condition that the motor court be reduced in size as it is visible from the street. The owners originally requested pea gravel, but the committee did not agree unless the variance for the material was granted.

Status: Approved

Second, additions to the Tom Martin House (2821 Stratford Rd.) were approved by the neighborhood association. Additions will be made on top of an existing carport and porch, with the porch being extended to the end of the structure. The windows in the front will be replaced with French doors for access to the new patio.

Status: Approved

Finally, the neighborhood previously approved another residential project (3554 Lenox Rd.). This project will replace an awning over a terrace with a permanent roof. The current brick columns will be extended to support the roof and brick reclaimed from the rear addition will be used.

Source: click <http://weldbham.com/blog/2016/09/27/design-review-september-22-2016/>

September 24, 2016: Weld for Birmingham, LLC; BAO gears up for 25th Magic City AIDS Walk

On Sunday, September 25, Birmingham AIDS Outreach will host the 25th Annual Magic City AIDS Walk and 5k Run at Railroad Park. The event, according to the BAO, "raises money and awareness for the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Birmingham metro area," and is the longest-running event of its kind in the state.

In anticipation of the milestone event, Weld spoke with BAO Development Director Jamie Whitehurst about the significance of the anniversary and what has changed in Birmingham's battle against HIV/AIDS over the past quarter-century.

Weld: What has been the progression of the Magic City AIDS Walk over the past 25 years?

Jamie Whitehurst: The Magic City AIDS Walk started 25 years ago in 1991. While planning the first AIDS Walk, volunteers and staff were concerned about how well received such an event would be in Birmingham. (It was a much different time back then.)

During the 1990s the Magic City AIDS Walks was heavily attended with upwards of 1,000 people raising nearly \$100,000 per year. In the early 2000s AIDS Walks across the country started decreasing in size as HIV/AIDS received less attention from media sources.

In the last several years, BAO has worked hard to increase attendance by emphasizing that this event is family, kid and pet-friendly. It's a time to honor those who have lost the battle and celebrate achievements in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Attendance at the Magic City AIDS Walk now averages 600-800 each year.

Weld: Twenty-five years is a good milestone to look at progress that's being made in the Birmingham community. In terms of community outreach, what has changed over that time period? What have been some significant signs of progress?

Whitehurst: Twenty-five years certainly is a milestone and the face of HIV/AIDS has changed in many ways. Twenty-five years ago, in 1991, HIV/AIDS was known as a gay disease, and we were reminded of that each day with horrible stories of young men who were sick, dying and often abandoned by their families. The advocates and guardian angels of HIV patients in those days faced discrimination, fear and hatred from the public. There are so many stories of hope and love from those dark days - stories that we can't forget.

Today we understand that everyone is affected by HIV. HIV does not discriminate. Thanks to research at UAB and other institutions, HIV positive individuals can now live healthy productive lives and have children and grandchildren. For the first time AIDS Service Organizations like BAO have elderly clients, because they are living longer, healthier lives. Witnessing the diversity of our advocates who attend the AIDS Walk each year is a sign of progress that excites me. On Sunday, for our 25th Annual Magic City AIDS Walk, you'll see families, children, churches and people from the LGBTQ community all rallying together to show hope, love, and acceptance.

Source: click <http://weldbham.com/blog/2016/09/24/bao-gears-up-for-25th-magic-city-aids-walk/>

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Fact-checking Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and the claims they made during the final presidential debate 10/20/2016

Independent - CEASED MARCH 2016, The

Donald Trump painted an inaccurately dark portrait of manufacturing in America while Hillary Clinton stretched credulity in boasting that her spending plans won't add to the country's debt. As well, both struggled in the presidential final debate to explain comments from their past.

A look at some of the claims in the debate and how they compare with the facts:

TRUMP: "We're not making things anymore, relatively speaking."

THE FACTS: Despite his "relatively speaking" hedge, the assertion is wrong. U.S. factory production has more than doubled since 1979, when manufacturing employment was at its peak.

The problem is that it takes fewer people to produce more. The United States has lost more than 7 million factory jobs, a drop of nearly 40 percent, since the 1979 manufacturing employment peak.

Factory production, minus the cost of raw materials and certain other expenses, reached \$1.91 trillion last year, according to the Commerce Department, which uses 2009 dollars to adjust for inflation. That's a notch below the record set on the eve of the Great Recession in 2007. Factories have used robotics and computers to increase output even with fewer workers. The U.S. still produces plenty of autos, planes, steel and other metals, and large industrial machinery.

CLINTON: "I don't add a penny to the national debt."

THE FACTS: Not true, according to the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. It estimates her increased spending in areas such as infrastructure, more financial aid for college and early childhood education, would increase the national debt by \$200 billion over 10 years. That is far less than their estimate for Trump, who they predict would add \$5.3 trillion over 10 years. But it's plenty more than a penny.

TRUMP, referring to a 2010 U.S.-Russia treaty limiting both countries to 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads: "They create warheads. We can't."

The FACTS: Incorrect. The New START treaty, which Trump called "Start Up," does not prevent either the U.S. or Russia from building nuclear warheads. It restricts each country to a total of 1,550 warheads deployed on bombers, submarines and in underground silos and requires that this limit be reached by February 2018.

CLINTON, on whether she called for open borders in a 2013 speech to a Brazilian bank: "I was talking about energy."

THE FACTS: She was actually talking about more than energy, but apparently less than an open border that immigrants can spill across at will, according to the partial transcript released by WikiLeaks.

Clinton said in the speech that "my dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders, sometime in the future with energy that is as green as sustainable as we can get it, powering growth and opportunity for every person in the hemisphere." The remarks suggest a broad interest in open trade but were not necessarily evidence that she would support the unfettered movement of people, as Trump suggested.

CLINTON: "He held a number of big rallies where he said that he could not possibly have done those things to those women because they were not attractive enough."

TRUMP: "I did not say that. I did not say that."

THE FACTS: He did say that. At an Oct. 13 rally, Trump criticized the physical attractiveness of People magazine reporter Natasha Stoyanoff, who has said Trump forced himself on her at Mar-a-Lago while she was interviewing him for a story. Trump said: "Take a look. You take a look. Look at her, look at her words, you tell me what you think. I don't think so."

CLINTON: "I want to make college debt free."

THE FACTS: Clinton might aspire to that lofty goal, but she has only proposed making college tuition free for in-state students who go to a public college or university. Even with expanded grant aid, room and board can lead students to borrow.

Clinton would have the government pay for in-state tuition at public colleges and universities for students from families earning less than \$125,000 a year. Students would still need to foot the bill for housing and food, which makes up more than half of the average \$18,943 sticker price at a four-year public university, according to the College Board.

But Trump is correct that government would shoulder higher costs with Clinton's plan.

Her plan would cost the federal government an estimated \$500 billion over 10 years, with additional costs possibly for state governments.

[Read more](#)

Trump calls Clinton 'nasty woman' during final debate

Audience urged to stop laughing when Trump said he respects women

Watch the key moments from the third presidential debate

TRUMP: "Her plan is going to raise taxes and even double your taxes."

THE FACTS: Clinton's plan wouldn't raise taxes at all for 95 percent of Americans, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. The very wealthiest would take the greatest hit, though a doubling is highly questionable.

Two-thirds of her proposed increases would hit the top 0.1 percent of richest Americans, the center estimates. The main components of her tax plan: a minimum 30 percent tax on those earning at least \$1 million a year, and a 4 percent tax surcharge for those earning more than \$5 million a year. She would also cap the value of tax deductions and exclusions for wealthier taxpayers.

CLINTON on her opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal: "It didn't meet my test."

THE FACTS: It met her test when she was secretary of state and she promoted it worldwide.

Hacked emails from Clinton's campaign, released Wednesday by WikiLeaks, showed that Jake Sullivan, her top foreign policy adviser, called her a "big champion" of the deal and worried about how to handle the issue in the face of Sen. Bernie Sanders' opposition. She later flip-flopped into opposition during the Democratic primaries against Sanders.

Clinton says she no longer backs the proposed trade deal as written because it does not provide enough protections for U.S. workers on wages, jobs and the country's national security. Yet the final deal also includes some of the strongest labor protections of any U.S. trade agreement.

TRUMP: "Hillary Clinton wanted the (border) wall. Hillary Clinton fought for the wall in 2006 or thereabouts. Now, she never gets anything done, so naturally it wasn't built."

THE FACTS: He's partly right. As a senator from New York, Clinton did support the 2006 Secure Fence Act, which authorized the construction of hundreds of miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border.

But it was built, contrary to Trump's assertion. Nearly 700 miles of fencing was put in place during President George W. Bush's second term and the beginning of President Barack Obama's first term.

The fencing is placed largely in urban areas along the nearly 2,000-mile frontier. It is not the type of solid wall that Trump has pledged to construct at Mexico's expense. The fence has miles-long gaps and gates built in to allow landowners access to their property on the south side of the fencing. Immigrants have been known to go over and around the fence.

TRUMP: "So I just left some high representatives of India. They're growing at 8 percent. China is growing at 7 percent. And that for them is a catastrophically low number. We are growing, our last report came out and it's right around the 1 percent level and I think it's going down."

THE FACTS: China and India are growing faster in large part because they're playing catch-up to the United States, the world's largest economy. Those two Asian countries are starting from a much lower baseline with a much larger population than the United States, meaning that by definition they should be growing faster. Economists would warn of a dangerous bubble if the United States grew that quickly and financial markets would fear a devastating recession to follow.

But China and India aren't any better off than the U.S., said former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke in an analysis released Wednesday. On a per-capita basis, China has just 10 percent of the United States' income. India has about 6 percent.

Factoring in life expectancy, inequality and leisure, Bernanke notes that the United States comes off even better.

TRUMP: "Last week, as you know, the end of last week, they came out with an anemic jobs report. A terrible jobs report."

THE FACTS: The September jobs report that Trump calls "terrible" is actually viewed by most economists as encouraging. Employers added 156,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate ticked up to 5 percent because more Americans felt confident enough to start looking for jobs, a positive sign.

TRUMP: Under Hillary Clinton, "\$6 billion went missing" at the State Department.

THE FACTS: Not exactly. That figure is a distortion about a legitimate record-keeping concern. In 2014, the State Department's inspector general released an alert warning that the documentation for \$6 billion in State Department contracts was incomplete. But there's no reason to think that all occurred under Clinton. The inspector general, Steve Linnick, specifically disavowed the conclusion that the money went missing.

TRUMP: "President Obama has moved millions of people out ... millions of people have been moved out of this country."

THE FACTS: That's true. Obama has overseen the deportation of more than 2.5 million immigrants since taking office in January 2009.

During Obama's first term hundreds of thousands of immigrants were deported annually, following a trend of increasing deportations started under President George W. Bush. The administration set a record in 2014 when more than 409,000 people were sent home. During his second term, deportations have steadily declined as he has opted to focus immigration enforcement on deporting serious criminals and those who pose a threat to national security or public safety.

Trump also claims that "nobody knows about it, nobody talks about it" and that's not so. Obama has been dubbed "the deporter in chief" by immigration advocates and opponents of his immigration enforcement policies.

TRUMP: Clinton "has no idea whether it's Russia, China or anybody else" behind recent hacks of Democratic organizations and individuals. "Our country has no idea."

THE FACTS: Trump's refusal to point the finger at Moscow is at odds with the prevailing position of the U.S. intelligence community. "We believe, based on the scope and sensitivity of these efforts, that only Russia's senior-most officials could have authorized these activities," the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said recently in a joint statement with the Department of Homeland Security.

Russia has denied accusations that it was behind the effort.

TRUMP: Insurance premiums under the Obama health care law next year "are going to go up over 100 percent."

THE FACTS: Premiums are going up, and by double digits in many states, but to say it's over 100 percent is hyperbole.

The full impact of next year's premium increases is going to take time to sort out, and will vary across the country. Full information will be available Nov. 1 when the HealthCare.gov market goes live.

A study this summer by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation looked at 14 metro areas with complete information and found premiums were rising in 12 of them. The average increase for a popular option called the "lowest-cost silver plan" was 11 percent.

Since then, some states have reported higher numbers. California's marketplace projected an average increase of 13.2 percent. The three insurers in Tennessee's market got increases of 44 percent, 46 percent, and 62 percent on average.

In Minnesota customers will see increases ranging from 50 percent to 67 percent.

Many consumers receive subsidies that will offset the rising premiums, but an estimated 9 million people buy individual policies outside the health law's markets and pay full freight. Many will be shocked when they get their renewal notices.

CLINTON: The Obama health care law "extended the solvency of the Medicare trust fund." If Trump repeals the law, "our Medicare problem gets worse."

THE FACTS: Clinton is basically on target, but Medicare's funding problems are more complicated than she implies.

The 2010 health care law was partly financed with cuts in future payments to hospitals, insurers and other Medicare service providers. According to projections at the time, that extended the solvency of the Medicare trust fund to 2029. (Otherwise Medicare would have been unable to fully pay its bills in 2017.)

Republican budgets since then have kept Obama's Medicare cuts.

But the health care law did not solve Medicare's financial problems. The trust fund is currently projected to be exhausted in 2028. The program's trustees have repeatedly warned Congress and the president that action is needed to sustain Medicare over the long haul.

TRUMP: "If you look at your voter rolls you will see millions of people that are registered to vote, millions - this isn't coming from me, this is coming from Pew report and other places - millions of people that are registered to vote that shouldn't be registered to vote."

THE FACTS: Trump correctly cited the Pew report, although the finding does not prove his point that the presidential election is "rigged."

A 2012 report from the Pew Charitable Trusts found that 24 million voter registrations on the books were either no longer valid or inaccurate in some way. Some were failures to remove names of people who had died or moved, blamed on "antiquated" state registration systems. But the report didn't find or even discuss any evidence of voting fraud.

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Republican Ted Budd, 44, and Democrat Bruce Davis, 59, are competing for the congressional seat in North Carolina's District 13. The district consists of five counties between Statesville and Greensboro

A gun shop owner and a Marine Corps military veteran are competing for the congressional seat in North Carolina's District 13.

Republican Ted Budd, 44, and Democrat Bruce Davis, 59, share strong Second Amendment values yet have different ideas on how to combat gun violence. They are both concerned about Islamic extremism and about the impact that the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact might have on the state. But they disagree on building a wall on the southern border of the country to keep immigrants out.

District 13 consists of five counties between Statesville and Greensboro. It is one of several districts that a panel of three judges decided to alter earlier this year. The redistricting provided Budd and Davis with the rare opportunity to run for Congress without facing a powerful incumbent.

Budd says gun-control measures are not the solution to what he sees as a people problem. Terrorism and mental health are at the heart of gun violence in the United States, he said.

"When we address those and deal with those issues, then we begin to solve things that are falsely labeled as gun-control problems," he said.

Davis says part of the reason gun violence has become so common is that people lack formal training on gun safety.

"In the Marine Corps, we carried a weapon for months before we got live ammunition, and I'm not saying that everyone has to have a gun for months to get ammunition, but certainly we became very familiar with that weapon," he said.

I like to say 'gun safety' instead of 'gun control.' We need more gun safety. Bruce Davis

Congress became increasingly concerned about gun violence in the United States following the June 12 mass shooting at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Since then, Democrats and Republicans have sparred on the House of Representatives and Senate floors over whether to institute new gun-control measures. Some lawmakers have proposed legislation that would prevent individuals previously investigated for terror ties from acquiring weapons that they could use to commit acts of violence.

Those national security woes and others are at the center of the debate among candidates this year.

Budd said he wanted to "deal with the radicalization side of Islam," which he described as "the real challenge" of strengthening national security.

"We want to make sure that we stay strong in our First Amendment rights, and that's freedom of religion," he said. "We also have freedom of speech, but we can't yell 'fire' in a crowded theater. So when freedom of religion manifests itself in the form of radical Islam, then we need to deal aggressively with it."

Davis suggested that the United States and Russia work together to defeat Islamic factions overseas. Additionally, he said, the Congress needs to invest more money in the Department of Homeland Security.

"We really need to look at domestic terrorism, which is certainly a threat as we have people who converted by way of the internet. . . . We have to have some type of legislation, come up with some way to monitor those types of activities," he said.

Another homeland security concern for the District 13 candidates is border security. Budd supports constructing a wall on the border.

"We're all immigrants and we need to realize that we need to continue that, but it's not a right for somebody to come to our country, it's a privilege," he said. "And we want to make sure that people who come to our country are here to join our system and are here to make our country better."

Davis disagrees with building a wall, but he does support border control.

"It makes very little, if any, sense at all to try to build a wall, and Mexico has certainly said that they're not going to pay for it," Davis said.

"It seems the same people who are talking about deporting undocumented people, immigrants, apparently are not looking at the economics involved and the cost involved," he said. "And they're the same ones who want smaller government."

Both men say they are wary about how the Trans-Pacific Partnership would affect North Carolina. They don't want to support a deal that would harm the state. Still, neither has ruled out signing off on the deal.

"We have to make sure, one, we're not signing bad deals so it becomes 'unfair trade' to the U.S. And then, secondly, we have to make sure that we are remaining competitive from a regulatory angle in the U.S.," Budd said.

While, yes, I'm for free trade, I'm also for making sure that we don't sign bad deals and also making sure that we're not choking ourselves down with regulations here in our country. Ted Budd

"It's such a large bill, like anything else, and it requires some studying before I could. And I plan to do that, certainly, to have a better stance on it in the future," Davis said.

Age: 44.

Education: Bachelor's degree in business management from Appalachian State University. Master's degree in business administration from Wake Forest University.

Professional experience: Owner of ProShots Indoor Range & Training.

Political résumé: He has never for political office.

Family: Budd and his wife, Amy Kate, have three children.

Website: <http://tedbudd.com/>

Age: 59.

Education: Bachelor of science in business from High Point University.

Professional experience: Owner, Kid Appeal Learning Center, a five-star child development center in High Point for over 18 years.

Political résumé: Former Guilford County commissioner of 12 years. Ran unsuccessfully for state Senate in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

Family: Wife, Angela, five children.

Website: www.brucefornc.com/meet-bruce/

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Charlotte Observer Online, The

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Website: <http://tedbudd.com/>

Bruce Davis

Age: 59.

Education: Bachelor of science in business from High Point University.

Professional experience: Owner, Kid Appeal Learning Center, a five-star child development center in High Point for over 18 years.

Political résumé: Former Guilford County commissioner of 12 years. Ran unsuccessfully for state Senate in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

Family: Wife, Angela, five children.

Website: www.brucefornc.com/meet-bruce/

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Gun shop owner, military veteran compete for newly drawn NC District 13 | [View Clip](#)

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McClatchy Newspapers Online

...he said, the Congress needs to invest more money in the Department of Homeland Security. "We really need to look at domestic...

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GCN Online

...for Government Security News, where he covered all aspects of homeland security from IT to detection dogs and border...

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Election Could Have a Major Impact on DHS Agencies | [View Clip](#)

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Government Executive

The next administration could substantially reshape the direction of the Homeland Security Department, a new report shows. The...

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Star (Malaysia) - Online, The

...not to deport them back to their devastated homeland drew them to the U.S.-Mexico border. "We don't want to cause...

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...not to deport them back to their devastated homeland drew them to the U.S.-Mexico border. "We don't want to cause...

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ICE HSI Houston Special Agent leads efforts to rescue accident victims | [View Clip](#)
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On Monday evening following Columbus Day weekend, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations...

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Illegal border crossings from Mexico into U.S. up 23 percent from 2015 | [View Clip](#)
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...from 2015 in which there were 331,333 apprehensions, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said in a statement....

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... These indictments resulted from an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security...

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Illegal Immigration Surges Along Southern Border, Driven by Central American Migration | [View Clip](#)
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...surged 23 percent this past year, according to Monday's U.S. Department of Homeland Security report. What's

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...for District 10. In 2013, he became chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security. He also serves as the chairman of the...

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Brand USA board of directors elects Tom Klein chairman | [View Clip](#)

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...Commerce in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security. To allow for staggered term...

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Study Says Election Could Have a Major Impact on DHS Agencies | [View Clip](#)

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BCNN1

...some changes to policies had been agreed upon during a visit to Mexico by Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson on Oct. 11. At...

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Secretary Carter presents DoD public service award to Homeland Security Secretary Johnson | [View Clip](#)

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EIN News

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter today honored Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson with the Department of Defense Distinguished...

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U.S. Senator - Sessions, Jeff - Alabama

...on Immigration and the National Interest by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as of June 25, 2016, there were 953,806...

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...four Democrats voted against it. On June 27, 2013, the Senate passed the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration...

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Ron Johnson works to raise his profile among voters while Russ Feingold tries to reintroduce himself | [View Clip](#)

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La Crosse Tribune Online

...- despite his incumbency and role as chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security - compared to 21 percent for Feingold....

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How the US Could Turn Tijuana Into the Next Little Haiti | [View Clip](#)

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...Fusion go to original October 19, 2016 Thousands of Haitians Are Stuck at U.S.-Mexico Border (Fusion) Gerald carries a...

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...opens with audio of Trump reaffirming his pledge to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, then cycles through...

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Border Patrol: Illegal Immigration from Central America Surging Again | [View Clip](#)

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...caught by border patrol. According to new numbers out this week from Customs Border Protection, a total of 408,870 people were caught...

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HP sells info on every Palestinian's body to Israel | [View Clip](#)

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Jews for Justice for Palestinians

... HP also profits from the US prison system and aids Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In 2009, The California Department of...

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How Europe Left Itself Open to Terrorism | [View Clip](#)

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My informs

...data on people preparing to board flights to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Under the system, counterterror officials...

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We must respect the rule of law | [View Clip](#)

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Austin American-Statesman Online

Carter: We must respect the rule of law

0

John Carter

U.S. Representative

11:17 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016

Round Rock

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Round Rock

[View Caption](#)[Hide Caption](#)

U.S. Rep. John R. Carter, 31st Congressional District

From Central Texans and police officers alike, one message I keep hearing is the absolute need to respect the rule of law. While I'm honored to serve on the committees that provide resources for hundreds of thousands of law enforcement professionals across our great nation, funding alone cannot establish security and rein in lawlessness.

Sadly, we've seen a society-wide erosion in the respect for the rule of law. When our nation's leaders allow lawbreakers to escape just punishment, it sets a dangerous example for society at large. When guilty individuals are allowed to escape consequences, it enrages the victims and allows the offender to avoid the essential course-correcting results of their decision. When those charged with enforcing the law fear for their safety, it empowers those who seek to subvert the very foundation of our nation.

We see it on the border every day. Millions cross illegally into Texas, treating our border as if it doesn't exist, unconcerned about the consequences. To make matters worse, the Obama administration issues executive orders that undermine border security and refuse to consider key immigration reforms that would make a real difference and save lives along our border.

In this current Congress I introduced the Protection of Children Act of 2015, a border security bill designed to stop the endless flow of foreign citizens across our southern border. The bill makes crucial changes to the way foreign citizens are processed once they enter the country illegally. The PCA closes loopholes routinely used by smugglers to subvert our asylum system.

Those who enforce the rule of law are under more scrutiny than ever these days. I will continue to hold our law enforcement to the highest standards while I count on their help to protect our homes, families and communities.

Yet, to lay the job of teaching respect for the rule of law at the feet of our police alone is not the answer. It must be taught in our schools, by our community leaders and within the walls of our homes. I have consistently supported efforts to help prepare our police officers and to build bridges of trust between the officers and communities they serve. We must do all we can to protect those who protect us.

Over my 20 years as a judge for the district court in Williamson County, I saw lawlessness on a small scale as thousands were arraigned before my court. Many of the judgments I issued resulted in positive, life-changing course corrections. The key to success in many of the cases I tried was the swift and just consequences that nurtured a healthy respect for the rule of law.

We need to apply that approach across our land. Our great nation was built on the rule of law, a hard work ethic and respect for others. I pray we continue to teach our children, friends and families to respect the rule of law and to do right by their fellow men. God bless you, my fellow Texans.

Rep. Carter represents Texas District 31, which includes Fort Hood, the largest active duty armored military installation in the free world. He serves as Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Appropriations, co-chairman of the House Army Caucus, is on the Subcommittee for Commerce, Justice and Science and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

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...from the attorney general or the public. While the Department of Homeland Security is tasked with enforcing our nation's...

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...border in fiscal year 2016 - up from about 331,000 a year earlier - and Homeland Security officials say the increased arrests also...

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TickleTheWire.com

Border Fence along Mexico and the U.S. By Steve Neavling ticklethewire.com Donald Trump's continued rhetoric

about...

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Unisys announces latest series of security-related milestones

10/19/2016

Dataquest

Unisys has announced its latest series of security-related milestones, including a major win in border protection and the launches of leading-edge technologies to help enterprises protect their data and operations from the growing specter of cybercrime.

Made in conjunction with National Cyber Security Awareness Month in the U.S. as well as security-related events the company is sponsoring this week, today's announcements include:

A contract from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, part of the Department of Homeland Security, to modernize the agency's technology for identifying people and vehicles entering and exiting the U.S. The Integrated Traveler Initiatives contract was awarded as a task order under the Department of Homeland Security's EAGLE II contract.

The launch of Unisys Digital Investigator, a crime investigation system enabling law enforcement agencies to share critical crime investigation information across applications and agency boundaries. Unisys will demo Digital Investigator, part of the company's "Safe Cities" initiative for increasing law enforcement agencies' access to real-time data that can help prevent and combat crime, this week at the annual International Association of Chiefs of Police conference in San Diego.

The launch of a new Appointment Manager solution for financial services institutions, to be integrated with Unisys Stealth micro-segmentation security software and available via the Microsoft Azure public cloud platform, to manage all aspects of a customer's appointment from initial contact to automated reminders and through to completion of the appointment.

The results of a recent ethical hacking event sponsored by the University of Hawaii, at which roughly 100 contestants - including skilled professionals from the FBI and the Army National Guard, with advisors from the NSA acting as "coaches" - failed to access a computerized document protected by Stealth or even detect its presence on the network.

"These milestones serve to highlight Unisys' unmatched focus on securing the data and operations of organizations across industries ranging from financial services and travel and transportation to government and life sciences," said Inder M. Singh, chief strategy and marketing officer for Unisys. "These announcements are particularly significant in light of this week's theme as part of National Cyber Security Awareness Month in the U.S.: 'Recognizing and Combating Cybercrime.' The high-value software, services and solutions Unisys brings to its global markets today offer much-needed ammunition in this fight."

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Obama scolds reporter for asking question at press conference

10/19/2016

Washington Times, The

President Obama scolded a journalist Tuesday for shouting out a question — at a press conference — about illegal immigration from Central America.

"I appreciate you shouting out a question, since I'm sure there are a lot of colleagues of yours who would like to do the same," Mr. Obama told the reporter sarcastically.

The president was wrapping up a news conference with Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi in the White House Rose Garden when the scolding came. By arrangement, Mr. Obama and Mr. Renzi had agreed to take only four or five questions from Italian and American journalists who were selected by the leaders' staff beforehand.

Mr. Obama was discussing the challenges of illegal immigration when Washington Post reporter David Nakamura, who wasn't on the pre-approved list of questioners, called out a question for Mr. Obama about his policies on illegal immigration from Central America.

"That's what I just said, I said on Central America they have increased. Why are you —" Mr. Obama asked with a tone of irritation.

When the reporter persisted, Mr. Obama replied, "Actually, David, they [illegal immigrants] spiked heavily in 2014, went down significantly in 2015, have gone back up this year in part because there's still desperation in Central America. But they're still not at the levels they were in 2014."

Nearly 409,000 illegal immigrants were nabbed at the U.S.-Mexico border in fiscal 2016 — up from about 331,000 a year earlier. Homeland Security officials say the increased arrests also mean an increase in the number that are sneaking by them.

The number of illegal immigrants traveling as families also rose, reaching a record high of 77,674.

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Johnson: Immigration reform needed

10/19/2016

Desert Sun, The

"Border security alone cannot overcome the powerful push factors of poverty and violence that exist in Central America."

Jeh Johnson

Secretary of Homeland Security

Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson said border security and a wall are not enough to stop the growing number of people coming into the United States from the southern border.

The head of the Department of Homeland Security urged Congress and the next administration to pass comprehensive immigration reform and address the root causes of migration on Monday, after releasing statistics showing that 77,000 more immigrants were apprehended at the border this fiscal year than the last one.

"Border security alone cannot overcome the powerful push factors of poverty and violence that exist in Central America," Johnson said in a statement.

"Walls alone cannot prevent illegal migration. Ultimately, the solution is long-term investment in Central America to address the underlying push factors in the region."

Johnson's statement comes three weeks before the Nov. 8 presidential election between Republican businessman Donald Trump, who has proposed building a border wall and having Mexico pay for it, and Democrat Hillary Clinton, who has called for immigration reform and supports President Barack Obama's executive actions that grant temporary deportation relief to non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

More people, 409,000 total, were caught crossing the border illegally in the 2016 fiscal year - between October 2015 and September 2016 - than the previous year.

Despite the increase, the number of apprehensions remains well below what it was ten years ago, 1.07 million, according to statistics from Customs and Border Protection.

The numbers do show a dramatic increase of unaccompanied children attempting to cross the border. This year's apprehensions came close to 2014's total, during a so-called surge of child immigrants from Central American countries.

"Fewer Mexicans and single adults are attempting to cross the border without authorization, but more families and unaccompanied children are fleeing poverty and violence in Central America," Johnson said. "In 2014, Central Americans apprehended on the southern border outnumbered Mexicans for the first time. In 2016, it happened again."

The number of unaccompanied minors trying to cross the border was more than 68,000 in fiscal year 2014. It dropped by nearly half last year but crept up to 59,000 in 2016.

Most of the children got caught while crossing in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, data shows.

According to experts, the 2015 drop is more attributable to increased immigration enforcement in Mexico than to improved conditions in Central America.

Johnson finished his statement by asking lawmakers to fix a broken system.

"For one thing, we must reckon with the millions of undocumented immigrants who live in the shadows in this country, who've been here for years, and who should be given the opportunity to come forward and get right with the law," he said. "It is my profound hope that the next Congress will finally address this and other issues, and enact comprehensive immigration reform."

Immigration Reporter Gustavo Solis can be reached at 760 778 6443 or by email at gustavo.solis@desertsun.com You can follow him on Twitter at @journogoose.

"Border security alone cannot overcome the powerful push factors of poverty and violence that exist in Central America."

Jeh Johnson

Secretary of Homeland Security

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CCA announces ICE contract extension

10/19/2016

Tennessean, The

"We think ... they'll come to the same conclusion that we've been a really, really good tool for ICE."

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Hininger

CEO, Corrections Corporation of America

Corrections Corporation of America, a Nashville-based operator of prisons and detention centers, has extended a contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a positive sign for the troubled company.

The contract renewal comes weeks after the Department of Homeland Security announced it would be evaluating ICE's contracts with private operators and the Department of Justice said it would end contracts with private companies running prisons on concerns of safety and security.

CCA shares have tumbled in the aftermath of the announcements, falling 47 percent through Monday, and the company announced a restructuring in September that would include 55 layoffs. CCA shares climbed 1.4 percent Tuesday to \$14.55.

"It's notable with this ongoing review that here we are, the 18th of October, we are announcing this extension of the contract," CEO (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Hininger said in a conference call Tuesday. "We think we have a great, great story to show, what we've done historically, and they'll come to the same conclusion that, we've been a really, really good tool for ICE."

The contract, which lasts through 2021, concerns a 2,400-bed South Texas Family Residential Center. As part of the agreement, CCA will drop costs by 40 percent, mainly through staff reductions, CCA officials said. The contract was made originally in 2014, when the country faced an influx of border crossings that reached crisis level, according to the company. The center is now operating in a more normalized environment.

The Texas center is one of CCA's eight facilities contracting with ICE that will be assessed by an ICE subcommittee. In making the case for an ongoing relationship with ICE, Hininger pointed to its "high-quality services," as well as the cost to replace CCA operations.

"Building, staffing and operating new facilities to replace all the capacity currently provided by the private sector would cost ICE billions of dollars and result in costly long-term obligations," Hininger said. "By contracting for capacity of services from private providers, like CCA, ICE is able to avoid being committed long-term to these obligations and utilize the flexibility of the private sector to meet its changing needs. We believe we provide these needed solutions at a meaningful cost savings to the American taxpayer and are confident the subcommittee's review will draw similar conclusions."

The South Texas Family Residential Center was the subject of an Aug. 14 Washington Post article that said CCA was paid the same regardless of the number of beds occupied. Fourteen percent of CCA's 2015 revenue came from the center, according to the Washington Post, citing financial documents concerning the deal and interviews with immigration and homeland security officials.

CCA officials said Tuesday that the new ICE contract includes a fixed monthly rate.

While its three contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons are still a concern for the company, CCA officials said conversations have increased with both state officials and ICE, as the number of border crossings grows. The rate of family unit apprehension in fiscal year 2016 was 13 percent higher than in 2014 and 94 percent higher than in 2015, Hininger said during the call.

CCA estimated its net income would fall in 2017 compared to 2016, dropping from as high as \$207 million to as high as \$170 million.

Reach Jamie McGee at 615-259-8071 and on Twitter @JamieMcGee_.

"We think ... they'll come to the same conclusion that we've been a really, really good tool for ICE."

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Hininger

CEO, Corrections Corporation of America

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Iraqi Refugee Convicted of Attempting to Provide Material Support to ISIL

10/19/2016

Legal Monitor Worldwide

Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan, the 24-year-old Houston resident charged with attempting to provide material support or resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization, has pleaded guilty.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth Magidson, Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security Mary B. McCord, Special Agent in Charge Perrye K. Turner of the FBI's Houston Division and Special Agent in Charge Mark Dawson of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations in Houston made the announcement.

Al Hardan, a refugee born in Iraq, pleaded guilty today to one count of attempting to provide material support specifically himself to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Al Hardan entered the U.S. as a refugee on or about Nov. 2, 2009. Prior to entering the country, Al Hardan was in at least two refugee camps in Jordan and Iraq. After being admitted into the U.S. as an Iraqi refugee, he was granted legal permanent residence status on or about Aug. 22, 2011, and had resided in Houston.

In April 2014, federal agents began investigating Al Hardan who had been communicating with a California man whom he understood was associated with Al-Nusrah front. In those communications, the individual had told Al Hardan that he had previously traveled to Syria to fight for Al-Nusrah and discussed plans to return to Syria with Al Hardan to fight for Al-Nusrah.

Beginning in June 2014 and continuing through 2015, Al Hardan also developed a relationship with a Confidential Human Source (CHS). During that time, they discussed traveling overseas to support ISIL in fighting jihad and various ways to assist ISIL. Al Hardan also said he wanted to be trained in building remote transmitter/receiver detonators for improvised explosive devices, wanted to learn to use cell phones as the remote detonators and wanted to build remote detonators for ISIL. Al Hardan indicated he taught himself how to make remote detonators by accessing online training videos and other resources he found online and showed the CHS a circuit board he built to be used as a transmitter for a detonator.

On Nov. 5, 2014, Al Hardan took an oath of loyalty to ISIL, according to the plea agreement. Two days later, Al Hardan and the CHS participated in approximately one hour of tactical weapons training with an AK-47 that Al Hardan indicated he wanted.

During the investigation, Al Hardan had also posted many statements on social media in support of ISIL. One of those included a photo of a Humvee with an ISIL flag. Above the photo, Al Hardan posted, ISIS yesterday in Iraq, today in Syria and Allah willing, tomorrow in Jerusalem. He also made numerous statements about his plans to travel to Syria and fight alongside ISIL and become a martyr. In one instance he said I want to blow myself up. I want to travel with the Mujahidin. I want to travel to be with those who are against America. I am against America.

Upon his arrest in January 2016, investigators discovered training CDs on how to build remote detonators, electronic circuitry components, tools used to build circuitry, multiple cell phones (that had not been activated), a prayer list for committing Jihad and becoming a martyr and the ISIL flag.

Al Hardan has been and will remain in custody pending his sentencing hearing, set for Jan. 17, 2017. At that time, he

faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a possible \$250,000 fine.

The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and HSI conducted the investigation with the assistance of the Houston Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorneys S. Mark McIntyre and Ralph Imperato are prosecuting the case with assistance of the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section. 2016 Legal Monitor Worldwide.

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Conservation groups sue DHS for ignoring environmental impact of immigration

10/19/2016

Legal Monitor Worldwide

(JURIST) - Several conservation groups on Monday filed a lawsuit against the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) accusing the agency of violating environmental law by neglecting the effects of unregulated immigration. The plaintiffs include public interest groups across the nation such as the Scientists and Environmentalists for Population Stabilization (SEPS) and the Floridians for a Sustainable Population (FSP). The complaint, filed through the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI), states that all government agencies are required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider, analyze and publicize the possible environmental impact of their actions. The complaint then alleges that the DHS has ignored this federal obligation by not assessing the environmental effects of population destabilization created by uncontrolled legal and illegal immigration. It is further alleged that the DHS's adopted NEPA procedures are arbitrary and capricious and therefore violate the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The plaintiffs specifically reference 32 of the DHS's agency actions and request that the US District Court for the Southern District of California acknowledge the DHS's violations and grant injunction.

US immigration law continues to be a controversial and heavily politicized area of law at both the state and federal levels. Earlier this month the US Supreme Court denied a petition to rehear *United States v. Texas*, further stalling implementation of the Obama administration's immigration policy. In November 2014 a judge for the US District Court for the District of Arizona struck down an Arizona law that made smuggling immigrants a state crime because it conflicts with federal laws governing immigration. In August 2013 the Obama administration released a policy directive known as the "Family Interest Directive," emphasizing that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents should apply "prosecutorial discretion" towards undocumented immigrant parents of minors to limit detaining parents and to safeguard their parental rights. In June 2013 the US Senate approved a bill which would create new pathways to US citizenship for the more than 11 million undocumented immigrants now living in the US. That bill was subsequently not approved by the House. 2016 Legal Monitor Worldwide.

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Washington: Federal jury convicts El Paso man tied to murder-for-hire plot against his wife

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has issued the following news release: An El Paso man faces mandatory life in federal prison after a jury convicted him Monday for his role in a murder-for-hire plot against his wife.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) investigated this case. Samuel Velasco Gurrola, 41, was convicted on three counts of conspiracy to commit murder in a foreign country and four counts of conspiracy to cause foreign travel for murder for hire. According to evidence presented during trial, in 2008, Velasco Gurrola was married to Ruth Sagredo Escobedo. At the time, Velasco Gurrola was under indictment in El Paso County for aggravated sexual assault of a child and indecency with a child. Evidence further revealed that from September until November 2008, Velasco Gurrola conspired with his brother, Emmanuel Velasco Gurrola, and his sister, Dalia Valencia, and others to kill Sagredo while in Mexico in order to prevent her from testifying in the state case. Testimony revealed that Samuel Velasco Gurrola arranged to have Sagredo's father and sister killed in an attempt to lure Sagredo to Mexico. On Oct. 3, 2008, Francisco Maria Sagredo Villareal, Velasco Gurrola's father-in-law, was murdered in his house in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. And on Nov. 20, 2008, his daughter, Cinthia Sagredo Escobedo, was also murdered in Ciudad Juarez. Two days later, while traveling to her sister's funeral, Ruth Sagredo Escobedo was ambushed and murdered. Prior to jury selection, Emmanuel Velasco Gurrola, 30, pleaded guilty to three counts of conspiracy to kill in a foreign country and conspiracy to violate the Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) statute. Dalia Valencia, 44, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate the RICO statute. Emmanuel Velasco Gurrola and Dalia Valencia both face up to life in federal prison. Sentencings are scheduled as follows: Emmanuel Velasco Gurrola, Dec. 6; Dalia Valencia, Dec. 15; and Samuel Velasco Gurrola, Jan. 25, 2017. All three remain in federal custody pending sentencing. The following agencies also participated in this investigation: Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the FBI, with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Service and the El Paso Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Daphne Newaz and John Gibson, Western District of Texas, are prosecuting this case. In case

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Washington: Moreno Valley Man Sentenced to Nearly 20 Years in Prison for Advertising, Distributing, and Possessing Pornographic Images of Toddlers and Infants in Online Chatroom

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: US Department of Justice has issued the following news release: A Moreno Valley man has been sentenced to nearly two decades in federal prison for advertising child pornography in a members-only online chatroom for people with a sexual interest in infants and toddlers.

Angelo Harper Jr., 21, was sentenced on Monday to 235 months in prison and lifetime supervised release by United States District Judge R. Gary Klausner. Harper was convicted of advertising child pornography after a trial in July. Harper also pleaded guilty in July to distributing child pornography and possession of child pornography. The evidence presented at trial showed that Harper used the Kik Messenger social media platform to access a chatroom for those interested in nepiophilia, which is a sexual interest in infants and toddlers. Last year, an agent with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations entered the chatroom using an undercover Kik account, and accessed several postings about child pornography – made by an individual later identified as Harper – which included images depicting child pornography and a link to an explicit video. At one point, Harper wrote: "I have tons of pics and vids of little boys and girls. Pm me for chat and trade of kids under 6 [winking face emoji]." "Pedophiles who use technology to share child pornography re-victimize each child and perpetuate the market for this criminal behavior," said United States Attorney Eileen M. Decker. "This case highlights the fact that defendants like this one will not escape prosecution by hiding in the dark corners of the Internet." As a result of the investigation, HSI agents seized numerous digital devices from Harper that contained child pornography, and Harper admitted to using Kik to transmit child pornography. In total federal agents seized approximately 9,000 images of child pornography and over 500 videos. "This lengthy sentence should serve as a sobering warning about the consequences facing those who use the internet to traffic in child pornography and sexually exploit their innocent, helpless victims," said Edward Owens, acting special agent in charge for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Los Angeles. "The perversion of the perpetrators involved in these egregious crimes is frankly appalling and must be punished to the fullest extent of the law." The investigation into Harper was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys George E. Pence and A. Carley Palmer of the General Crimes Section. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: North Texas man sentenced to more than 14 years in federal prison for kidnapping and enticing 2 teenage girls to engage in sexual activity

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has issued the following news release: A North Texas man was sentenced Tuesday to more than 14 years in federal prison, for enticing a minor and aiding, and abetting.

This sentence was announced by U.S. Attorney John Parker of the Northern District of Texas. This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the Texas police departments of San Angelo, Abilene and Fort Worth. Robert Blaine Harris, 50, of Fort Worth, has been in custody since his arrest in January 2016. According to documents filed in the case, beginning in December 2015, Harris engaged in a relationship with a minor, Jane Doe 1, using Skout, an online dating application. Harris persuaded, induced, and enticed two 13-year-old girls, Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2, to engage in sexual activity. On Jan. 2, 2016, Harris acknowledged in a message that he knew both girls were "underage and I could get in really big trouble and that would ruin my life." In the early morning hours of Jan. 2, Harris traveled to Abilene and picked up the two 13-year-old girls and transported them to his Fort Worth residence to engage in sexual activity. The two juvenile females were recovered by law enforcement at Harris' residence on Jan. 9 after Harris called the Fort Worth police. Harris pleaded guilty in July 2016 to an indictment charging one count of enticing a minor, and aiding and abetting. U.S. District Judge Reed C. O'Connor sentenced Harris to 172 months in federal prison Oct. 18. Assistant U.S. Attorney Juanita Fielden, Northern District of Texas, was in charge of the prosecution. This investigation was conducted under HSI's Operation Predator, an international initiative to protect children from sexual predators. Since the launch of Operation Predator in 2003, HSI has arrested more than 14,000 individuals for crimes against children, including the production and distribution of online child pornography, traveling overseas for sex with minors, and sex trafficking of children. In fiscal year 2015, nearly 2,400 individuals were arrested by HSI special agents under this initiative and more than 1,000

victims identified or rescued. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact:
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Washington: Mother of Girl Shot by Smugglers Shares Testimonial

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: U.S. Customs and Border Protection has issued the following news release: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) released a Spanish language testimonial video of a Salvadorian mother whose 4-year-old-daughter was shot by smugglers during a robbery as they were riding a train through Mexico to the United States.

"The train stopped and a few men boarded the train, the men then told us to get off the train. When the men saw us move... he fired his gun. We all screamed. After that my little girl said - Mom, my arm hurts," explains the young woman who, after touching her daughter's body, noticed the little girl was bleeding. "We were begging the men for help. The men responded - No, we can't help you. I had so much fear that my daughter would die." Terrified, she picked up her little girl and got back onto the train. The train conductor arrived shortly after the robbers fled and took the mother and child to a local hospital for treatment. "They gave her oxygen. When the doctors told me the bullet hit her kidney, I didn't have any strength in me... because... seeing her laying helpless with machines attached to her. And to think all of this because I wanted to find something better." Upon leaving the hospital, smugglers took the mother and daughter to a stash house in Mexico. According to the mother, the conditions in the house were deplorable. The house was crammed with people, many of them being young children. As her child was suffering from the gunshot wound, no medical assistance was available to her. There were no antibiotics, no sterile dressings, no pain medication and no sympathy from those she trusted to bring her and her daughter to the United States. "The innocent and fragile life of a little 4-year-old girl was meaningless compared to the brutality and greed of human smugglers. This heart-wrenching story is a concerning reminder of the atrocities migrants endure on their journey, and how in the obscure tunnel of human smuggling, money rules over humanity," says Jaime Ruiz CBP Testimonials national spokesperson. The young woman and the child were rescued by the U.S. Border Patrol as they crossed into the United States. She voluntarily offered her testimony to inform other mothers about the realities of the journey. In coordination with U.S. Department of State (DOS), the new video is part of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) Testimonial series launched on May 31, Teenage Testimonial Released on August 8 and Medical Examiner Testimonial on August 23. It is a continuation of several long ranging Spanish language public awareness campaigns CBP has launched over the last decade. The video was produced by Joint Task Force West (JTF-W) South Texas Corridor, Rio Grande Valley Sector. JTF-W is an innovative U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) interagency integrated model that unifies all DHS border security components in the Southwest Border. In addition to being distributed to key Spanish language news media in the United States, the testimonials are released in Central America via U.S. embassies in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The PSA testimonial series is an interagency effort to raise awareness of the atrocities, abuses, extortion and natural hazards migrants encounter in their journey. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: Carter Presents Public Service Award to Homeland Security Secretary

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: U.S Department of Defense has issued the following news release: Defense Secretary Ash Carter today honored Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson with the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award, the department's highest civilian honor.

Carter presented the award to Johnson, formerly the Pentagon's top legal official, during a visit to DHS headquarters, where Johnson was hosting a meeting of senior DHS leaders. "Jeh is one of the finest, most capable, hardest-working public servants I have worked with," Carter said. "From his time as a highly capable general counsel at the Pentagon to his leadership of DHS at a time of enormous homeland security challenges, Jeh has made every organization he's joined stronger, and made our nation and our world safer." The Distinguished Public Service Award The Distinguished Public Service Award is the department's highest honor for private citizens and non-career public servants. This year, the defense secretary has presented the award to a bipartisan list of distinguished current and former officials, including former secretaries of state Madeline Albright and Henry Kissinger, former national security adviser Brent Scowcroft, and former Sen. John Warner. "Like Jeh, each of the public servants we have honored this year has a long record of service marked by competence, wisdom and self-sacrifice," Carter said. "Each of them embodies the very best our nation has to offer." As DHS secretary, Johnson leads the federal government's third-largest department, with 22 components including the Coast Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, the Secret Service

and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Before joining DHS in 2013, Johnson served for three years as DoD's general counsel, where he played a key role in several important initiatives, including the nation's counterterrorism efforts and the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." He served from 1998 to 2001 as general counsel to the Air Force, and from 1989 to 1991 as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. A native New Yorker, he worked in the private sector as an attorney at the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: CBP at Laredo Port of Entry Seizes \$196K in Cocaine

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: U.S. Customs and Border Protection has issued the following news release: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at Laredo Port of Entry recently seized a significant amount of cocaine valued at more than \$196,000 during a routine vehicle examination.

"Our frontline officers continue to maintain their vigilance and their resolute dedication to carrying out CBP's border security mission day in and day out contributed to this significant narcotics find," said Port Director Gregory Alvarez, Laredo Port of Entry. The seizure occurred on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016 at Lincoln-Juarez Bridge when CBP officers referred a 1996 Buick Skylark driven by a 20-year-old-male U.S. citizen from Laredo, Texas to secondary for an intensive inspection. After conducting a thorough examination and with the assistance of a canine team, CBP officers discovered 10 packages within the vehicle containing a total of 25.44 pounds of alleged cocaine. The narcotics carry an estimated street value of \$196,180. CBP officers seized the vehicle and narcotics. The driver was arrested and turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) special agents for further investigation. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: Owner Of Four Local Restaurants And Two Others Charged In Conspiracy To Harbor Illegal Aliens

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: US Department of Justice has issued the following news release: U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Sergio Ramses Mucino, 42, Jose Sanchez-Ocampo, 37, and Marguin Sanchez, 22, all of Buffalo, NY, were charged by criminal complaint with conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and \$250,000 fine.

"This office will continue to ensure that all employers play by the same set of rules regarding the operation of their business," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "This is particularly true in the restaurant industry, where health, safety, and financial rules apply to protect the public and staff alike." "Building and supporting a business through the intentional use of people not lawfully authorized to work here is a model that HSI will not tolerate," said Kevin Sibley, acting Special Agent in charge of HSI Buffalo. "These alleged practices not only put competitors at an economic disadvantage, they often come at the peril of the workers."

In addition, Juan Carlos Bernal-Lujano, 51, and Miguel Sanchez-Ocampo, 30, were charged with illegal re-entry after a felony conviction. Abel Cruz-Martinez, 46, Aida Ramirez-Arellano, 23, Alejandro Valadez-Leon, 47, and Aracelli Lopez-Martinez, 33, were also charged with illegal re-entry. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian J. Counihan, who is handling the case, stated that according to the complaint, Mucino, with the assistance of Sanchez-Ocampo and Sanchez, operates four restaurants in the City of Buffalo, Town of Cheektowaga and Village of Kenmore. The restaurants, where Mucino allegedly employs multiple unauthorized individuals, include Don Tequila on Allen Street in Buffalo, El Agave on Union Road in Cheektowaga, Agave on Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo, and La Divina on Delaware Avenue in Kenmore. In March 2016, Immigration and Customs Enforcement received information that Mucino made all decisions regarding hiring and employee remuneration. The investigation further revealed that a majority of the workforce at Mucino's restaurants are undocumented employees who are paid weekly in cash and that there are one or two legal employees per restaurant who receive payroll checks. After paying each employee in cash, each business allegedly grosses approximately \$50,000 in cash, per week, none of which is reported for state or federal taxes. A review of four bank accounts associated with the restaurants showed that Mucino would frequently commingle payroll and monthly expenses among these accounts. Between January 1, 2014 and June 2016, Mucino issued and endorsed checks to Sanchez-Ocampo, identified as his "right hand man" totaling approximately \$278,432. And between June 27, 2015 and October 20, 2015, Mucino issued and endorsed checks to Marquin Sanchez totaling approximately \$102,476.38. Ongoing surveillance between July 2014 and the present found 38 Hispanic individuals working at the restaurants and living in nine apartments and two houses within close proximity to the restaurants. The investigation determined that the

nine apartments are being rented and paid for Mucino and Sanchez-Ocampo and the two houses were purchased by Marguin Sanchez in cash for the purpose of housing the illegal workers. The complaint further alleges the employees worked six days a week, 14 hours a day and are paid approximately \$500 to \$800 in cash, per week. Mucino and Sanchez-Ocampo have been arrested and will make an initial appearance this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroder. Marguin Sanchez has not yet been taken into custody. During this morning's operation, officers seized a 2008 Ford Edge and a 2016 Cadillac Escalade allegedly used to transport the workers as well as a 2009 Porsche Boxter which was purchased with the illegal restaurant proceeds. The complaint is the result of an investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero and the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: Owner of 4 Buffalo restaurants charged in conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has issued the following news release: The owner of four Buffalo-area restaurants, and two other defendants were charged by criminal complaint in federal court Tuesday with conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens. The charges follow an extensive probe led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

The men charged in the complaint were Sergio Ramses Mucino, 42, Jose Sanchez-Ocampo, 37, and Marguin Sanchez, 22, all of Buffalo. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and \$250,000 fine. "Building and supporting a business through the intentional use of people not lawfully authorized to work here is a model that HSI will not tolerate," said Kevin Sibley, acting special agent in charge of HSI Buffalo. "These alleged practices not only put competitors at an economic disadvantage, they often come at the peril of the workers." "This office will continue to ensure that all employers play by the same set of rules regarding the operation of their business," U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York William J. Hochul, Jr.. "This is particularly true in the restaurant industry, where health, safety, and financial rules apply to protect the public and staff alike." In addition, Juan Carlos Bernal-Lujano, 51, and Miguel Sanchez-Ocampo, 30, were charged with illegal re-entry after a felony conviction. Abel Cruz-Martinez, 46, Aida Ramirez-Arellano, 23, Alejandro Valadez-Leon, 47, and Aracelli Lopez-Martinez, 33, were also charged with illegal re-entry. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian J. Counihan, who is handling the case, stated that according to the complaint, Mucino, with the assistance of Sanchez-Ocampo and Sanchez, operates four restaurants in the City of Buffalo, Town of Cheektowaga and Village of Kenmore. The restaurants, where Mucino allegedly employs multiple unauthorized individuals, include Don Tequila on Allen Street in Buffalo, El Agave on Union Road in Cheektowaga, Agave on Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo, and La Divina on Delaware Avenue in Kenmore. In March 2016, HSI received information that Mucino made all decisions regarding hiring and employee remuneration. The investigation further revealed that a majority of the workforce at Mucino's restaurants are undocumented employees who are paid weekly in cash and that there are one or two legal employees per restaurant who receive payroll checks. After paying each employee in cash, each business allegedly grosses approximately \$50,000 in cash, per week, none of which is reported for state or federal taxes. A review of four bank accounts associated with the restaurants showed that Mucino would frequently commingle payroll and monthly expenses among these accounts. Between Jan. 1, 2014 and June 2016, Mucino issued and endorsed checks to Sanchez-Ocampo, identified as his "right hand man" totaling approximately \$278,432. And between June 27, 2015 and Oct. 20, 2015, Mucino issued and endorsed checks to Marguin Sanchez totaling approximately \$102,476.38. Ongoing surveillance between July 2014 and the present found 38 workers employed at the restaurants and living in nine apartments and two houses within close proximity to the restaurants. The investigation determined that the nine apartments are being rented and paid for Mucino and Sanchez-Ocampo and the two houses were purchased by Marguin Sanchez in cash for the purpose of housing the illegal workers. The complaint further alleges the employees worked six days a week, 14 hours a day and are paid approximately \$500 to \$800 in cash, per week. Mucino and Sanchez-Ocampo have been arrested and will make an initial appearance this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroder. Marguin Sanchez has not yet been taken into custody. During this today's operation, officers seized a 2008 Ford Edge and a 2016 Cadillac Escalade allegedly used to transport the workers as well as a 2009 Porsche Boxter which was purchased with the illegal restaurant proceeds. The complaint is the result of an investigation by HSI and the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: ICE HSI Houston Special Agent leads efforts to rescue accident victims

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has issued the following news release: On Monday evening following Columbus Day weekend, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agent John DeJohn of HSI Houston was returning home from a weekend of fishing in Corpus Christi, Texas.

As he drove north under the overpass towards the Aransas Pass exit on state Highway 35, he saw a dust cloud and debris, as well as skid marks indicating there had been an accident. A vehicle appeared to have rolled and come to rest on its passenger side in a field. DeJohn immediately pulled over to the median, and activated his hazard lights. DeJohn along with other drivers who had stopped to assist, ran to the vehicle and discovered smoke coming from the engine compartment. The vehicle had rolled through a deep ditch and through a five-strand barbed-wire fence and was on fire. DeJohn observed a young girl pinned under the vehicle, screaming for help. She had severe facial injuries, including a bloody mouth and missing teeth and appeared to have a broken leg. DeJohn took charge of the situation and instructed one of the assisting individuals to call 911 and asked another individual to retrieve a fire extinguisher from his work truck while DeJohn and others tried to free the girl from underneath the vehicle. The group pushed up on the vehicle to relieve the pressure on the child and to pull her from the wreckage, placing her a safe distance from the burning vehicle. When the individual returned with the fire extinguisher, he attempted to put out the fire in the engine compartment, but the fire continued to spread. The girl told her rescuers that her sister was also in the vehicle. After helping rescue the girl, DeJohn returned to the vehicle that was still on its side and observed an unconscious female in the driver's seat strapped in with her seatbelt. The man with the fire extinguisher advised DeJohn that the fire was flaring up and spreading. Because the vehicle was lying on its passenger side, DeJohn was unable to open the driver's door or reach the driver's seat belt; he asked one of the individuals who had a knife to cut the seatbelt, which released the driver. The group attempted to extract the driver up through the driver's window, but the opening was small and she was still unconscious, which made rescue especially difficult. The fire continued to spread and smoke began to fill the vehicle cabin. DeJohn instructed three individuals to help him push the vehicle back on its wheels. Once they righted the vehicle, the driver's side door was opened and the driver was pulled out and dragged away from the fire to safety. Shortly thereafter, the driver, who was bleeding near her left eye, regained consciousness and asked what happened. DeJohn told her she had been in an accident and to remain calm. The driver notified her rescuers that her sister was in the car, but DeJohn explained that her sister was away from the vehicle and safe. As the flames continued to spread throughout the vehicle, the Aransas Pass (Texas) Police Department, Fire and EMS services arrived and extinguished the vehicle fire, and began providing first aid to the driver and her sister, who were then transported to the hospital. "We commend Special Agent DeJohn for the heroic action taken to save others on a moment's notice," said Mark Dawson, Special Agent in Charge of HSI Houston. "This is a testament to HSI special agents everywhere who are willing put their lives in jeopardy every day to help others." After providing a statement to the officer at the scene, DeJohn departed the scene and continued his drive home. Reminiscing following the accident, DeJohn said, "You don't ever want to be a hero, because that means someone's life is in peril." In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: Secretary Carter presents DoD public service award to Homeland Security Secretary Johnson

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: U.S Department of Defense has issued the following news release: Secretary of Defense Ash Carter today honored Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson with the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award, the department's highest civilian honor.

Carter presented the award to Johnson, formerly the Pentagon's top legal official, during a visit to the Department of Homeland Security headquarters where Johnson was hosting a meeting of senior DHS leaders. "Jeh is one of the finest, most capable, hardest working public servants I have worked with," Carter said, "From his time as a highly capable general counsel at the Pentagon to his leadership of DHS at a time of enormous homeland security challenges, Jeh has made every organization he's joined stronger, and made our nation and our world safer." The Distinguished Public Service Award is the department's highest honor for private citizens and non-career public servants. This year, Carter has presented the award to a bipartisan list of distinguished current and former officials, including former secretaries of state Madeline Albright and Henry Kissinger; former national security adviser Brent Scowcroft; and former Sen. John Warner. "Like Jeh, each of the public servants we have honored this year has a long record of service marked by competence, wisdom and self-sacrifice," Carter said. "Each of them embodies the very best our nation has to offer." As DHS secretary, Johnson leads the federal government's third-largest department, with 22 components ranging from the U.S. Coast Guard and immigration, customs and border enforcement agencies to the Secret Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Before joining DHS in 2013, Johnson served for three years as general

counsel to the Department of Defense, the department's senior legal official. At DoD, he played a key role in several important initiatives, including the nation's counter-terrorism efforts and the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." He served from 1998 to 2001 as general counsel to the Air Force, and from 1989 to 1991 as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. A native New Yorker, he worked in the private sector as an attorney at the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Head Line: US Federal Contract Notice: Department of Homeland Security (Washington) Issues Solicitation for "Housing Officers for Migrants and Other Vulnerable Populations at the Migrant Operations Center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba"
10/19/2016
US Official News

WASHINGTON: Department of Homeland Security, Immigration & Customs Enforcement officer has issued requirement for "Housing Officers for Migrants and Other Vulnerable Populations at the Migrant Operations Center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba" Solicitation No: HSCEDM-16-R-00005 Notice Type: Solicitation Posted Date: October 19, 2016 Description: The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is issuing this solicitation for the services described herein under solicitation number HSCEDM-16-R-00005. The services required shall be performed at the Migrant Operations Center (MOC) located at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO) which fulfills ICE and the Department of State's responsibilities as outlined in Executive Order (E.O.) 13276.

The goal of the MOC is to provide a safe and secure living environment for migrants temporarily housed there. The contractor shall support and assist the DOS and ICE in meeting their responsibilities for the safety, security and care of these migrants. The MOC is made up of buildings at the base provided by the Department of Defense (DOD). It has an operational capacity of 120 migrants and additional capacity via temporary structures for an additional 280 migrants in the event of a surge in population. This results in a maximum capacity at the facility of 400. The top level objectives for the contractor shall be as follows:- Provide a fully secure and safe facility that provides a humane environment to all migrants.- Staffing of fully trained unarmed security guards, support personnel, and management staff who have the proper security clearances and can meet the requirements of working in an environment containing a vulnerable population that can include males, females, children, and families.- The timely acquiring and/or accomplishing of training, certifications, licenses, drug testing, uniforms, equipment, supplies, and vehicles necessary to provide the full range of required security and transportation services seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours per day throughout the contract period of performance. Set Aside: N/A The NAICS code number for this requirement: 561 Contact Details: 801 I STREET, NW, Suite 910, Washington, District of Columbia 20536 United States Point of Contact(s): Benjamin T. Shih, Contract Specialist benjamin.shih@ice.dhs.gov Phone: 2027322584

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Gun shop owner, military veteran compete for newly drawn NC District 13
10/19/2016
McClatchy Newspapers

A gun shop owner and a Marine Corps military veteran are competing for the congressional seat in North Carolina's District 13.

Republican Ted Budd, 44, and Democrat Bruce Davis, 59, share strong Second Amendment values yet have different ideas on how to combat gun violence. They are both concerned about Islamic extremism and about the impact that the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact might have on the state. But they disagree on building a wall on the southern border of the country to keep immigrants out.

District 13 consists of five counties between Statesville and Greensboro. It is one of several districts that a panel of three judges decided to alter earlier this year. The redistricting provided Budd and Davis with the rare opportunity to run for Congress without facing a powerful incumbent.

Budd says gun-control measures are not the solution to what he sees as a people problem. Terrorism and mental health are at the heart of gun violence in the United States, he said.

"When we address those and deal with those issues, then we begin to solve things that are falsely labeled as gun-control problems," he said.

Davis says part of the reason gun violence has become so common is that people lack formal training on gun safety.

"In the Marine Corps, we carried a weapon for months before we got live ammunition, and I'm not saying that everyone has to have a gun for months to get ammunition, but certainly we became very familiar with that weapon," he said.

Congress became increasingly concerned about gun violence in the United States following the June 12 mass shooting at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Since then, Democrats and Republicans have sparred on the House of Representatives and Senate floors over whether to institute new gun-control measures. Some lawmakers have proposed legislation that would prevent individuals previously investigated for terror ties from acquiring weapons that they could use to commit acts of violence.

Those national security woes and others are at the center of the debate among candidates this year.

Budd said he wanted to "deal with the radicalization side of Islam," which he described as "the real challenge" of strengthening national security.

"We want to make sure that we stay strong in our First Amendment rights, and that's freedom of religion," he said. "We also have freedom of speech, but we can't yell 'fire' in a crowded theater. So when freedom of religion manifests itself in the form of radical Islam, then we need to deal aggressively with it."

Davis suggested that the United States and Russia work together to defeat Islamic factions overseas. Additionally, he said, the Congress needs to invest more money in the Department of Homeland Security.

"We really need to look at domestic terrorism, which is certainly a threat as we have people who converted by way of the internet. . . . We have to have some type of legislation, come up with some way to monitor those types of activities," he said.

Another homeland security concern for the District 13 candidates is border security. Budd supports constructing a wall on the border.

"We're all immigrants and we need to realize that we need to continue that, but it's not a right for somebody to come to our country, it's a privilege," he said. "And we want to make sure that people who come to our country are here to join our system and are here to make our country better."

Davis disagrees with building a wall, but he does support border control.

"It makes very little, if any, sense at all to try to build a wall, and Mexico has certainly said that they're not going to pay for it," Davis said.



"It seems the same people who are talking about deporting undocumented people, immigrants, apparently are not looking at the economics involved and the cost involved," he said. "And they're the same ones who want smaller government."

Both men say they are wary about how the Trans-Pacific Partnership would affect North Carolina. They don't want to support a deal that would harm the state. Still, neither has ruled out signing off on the deal.

"We have to make sure, one, we're not signing bad deals so it becomes 'unfair trade' to the U.S. And then, secondly, we have to make sure that we are remaining competitive from a regulatory angle in the U.S.," Budd said.

"It's such a large bill, like anything else, and it requires some studying before I could. And I plan to do that, certainly, to have a better stance on it in the future," Davis said.

Maggie Ybarra: @MolotovFlicker

Ted Budd Age: 44. Education: Bachelor's degree in business management from Appalachian State University. Master's degree in business administration from Wake Forest University. Professional experience: Owner of ProShots Indoor Range & Training. Political sum: He has never for political office. Family: Budd and his wife, Amy Kate, have three children. Website: <http://tedbudd.com/>

Bruce Davis Age: 59. Education: Bachelor of science in business from High Point University. Professional experience: Owner, Kid Appeal Learning Center, a five-star child development center in High Point for over 18 years. Political sum: Former Guilford County commissioner of 12 years. Ran unsuccessfully for state Senate in 2008, 2010 and 2012. Family: Wife, Angela, five children. Website: www.brucefornc.com/meet-bruce/

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242,772 ALIENS WITH FINAL REMOVAL ORDERS FROM RECALCITRANT AND NON-COOPERATIVE COUNTRIES REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions:

Background From The Subcommittee On Immigration And The National Interest: There are nearly one million aliens in the United States who have final orders of removal nearly a quarter of whom are from countries that refuse to accept, or that delay the acceptance of, their nationals after they have been ordered removed from the United States. And they are being released into our communities every day.

According to data provided to the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as of June 25, 2016, there were 953,806 aliens in the United States with outstanding orders of removal, 182,761 of whom were convicted of crimes in the United States. Of the 953,806 aliens who have final orders of removal, 242,772 come from countries that refuse to take back their nationals after they receive final removal orders, with 123,098 coming from the 23 countries that ICE deems to be recalcitrant, and 119,674 from the 62 countries that ICE deems to be otherwise uncooperative. Of the 242,772, 57,029 were convicted of criminal offenses, or roughly 30 percent of the criminal aliens with removal orders in the United States including 28,733 from Cuba, 7,705 from Vietnam, 2,140 from Haiti, and 1,848 from China.

Although Congress provided a remedy in section 243(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for the Departments of Homeland Security and State to take action against these countries and leaders of the Departments of Homeland Security and State have known about these issues for years the United States has long allowed these countries to flout their legal obligations with little or no repercussions. These refusals undermine American immigration law, cost U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars, and place American citizens at risk of criminal violence and fraud.

For example, in 2012, ICE released an alien who had completed his sentence for attempted murder instead of deporting him to Haiti, because Haiti refused to accept him. In 2015, the same alien stabbed 25-year-old Casey Chadwick of Norwich, Connecticut, before stuffing her body in a closet. In 2013, an alien who should have been deported to Cambodia in 2009, but was instead released from ICE custody, molested a child that he picked up from a school without authorization. And in 2010, an alien who should have been deported to Jamaica, but was instead released, broke into his ex-girlfriend's home and stabbed her and a friend as her children slept nearby.

Further, 95 of these dangerous criminal aliens were recently released early from federal prison, due to retroactive sentence reductions, and not deported, including:

A Cuban national with convictions for burglary, drug trafficking, and sex offenses, who was released in Florida;

A Cuban national with convictions for eight counts of assault and aggravated assault, along with convictions for battery, selling cocaine, six counts of larceny, and four additional charges related to stolen property, who was released in Texas;

A Laotian national with convictions for burglary, drug trafficking, homicide, and sexual assault, who was released in California; and,

A Syrian national with convictions for selling cocaine and possession of a weapon, who was released in Illinois.

Against this backdrop, this month, the Obama Administration finally acknowledged its legal obligations with respect to the repatriation of aliens, and directed the imposition of minor visa sanctions against the small African country of The Gambia. There are 1,268 Gambian nationals in the United States with final orders of removal or less than 1 percent of the number of aliens from countries that fail to fully cooperate with the repatriation of their nationals. Pursuant to these sanctions, the Department of State will no longer issue visas to employees of the Gambian government, employees of certain entities associated with the government, and their spouses and children. These sanctions are mild, and it is likely that the State Department will have to take stronger actions to get results.

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United States: DHS To Issue New I-9 Form Following Recent Penalties

10/19/2016

Mondaq

Just when employers were becoming more comfortable with the complex and lengthy Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification that was issued in 2013, the federal government has decided to turn up the heat. First, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Justice recently increased the penalties for I-9 violations.

Second, DHS has announced that it will soon issue a new version of the Form I-9. These actions bring significant changes for employers.

Under the new fine schedule, employers face penalties such as the following:

I-9 paperwork violations: \$216 - \$2,156 per Form I-9
Knowingly employing unauthorized alien (first offense): \$539 - \$4,313 per violation
Knowingly employing unauthorized alien (second offense): \$4,313 - \$10,781 per violation
Knowingly employing unauthorized alien (third or more offenses): \$6,469 - \$21,563 per violation
E-verify employers - failure to inform DHS of continuing employment following final nonconfirmation: \$751 - \$1,502 per violation

The DOJ also increased the penalties for document abuse and discriminatory practices in addressing I-9 issues. Document abuse usually occurs when an employer asks for specific documents or for more or different documents after the employee has already presented qualifying I-9 documents. This violates the I-9 rules, which require that the employer allow the employee to choose which document or documents to present from the I-9 List of Acceptable Documents. The employer then must review what is presented to confirm whether the document or documents meet the verification requirements.

Unfair immigration-related employment practices may occur when an employer treats job applicants and/or new hires differently based upon their immigration status while implementing I-9 procedures or addressing I-9 issues.

Penalties for document abuse and unfair immigration-related employment practices are now as follows:

Document abuse: \$178 - \$1,782 per violation
Unfair immigration-related employment practices (first offense): \$445 - \$3,563 per violation
Unfair immigration-related employment practices (second offense): \$3,563 - \$8,908 per violation
Unfair immigration-related employment practices (third or more offenses): \$5,345 - \$17,816 per violation

These new fine levels are effective as of August 1, 2016. During I-9 inspections, DHS's Immigration and Customs Enforcement and DOJ's Office of Special Counsel will apply these new penalties to violations that occurred after November 2, 2015. The increased penalties are a reminder of why I-9 compliance is so important. Employers should review their I-9 procedures and conduct periodic internal audits to best defend against the risk of I-9 penalties. For additional tips to achieve better I-9 compliance, as well as for updates on the government's enforcement activities, please see our prior posts.

As to DHS's announcement of yet another version of the I-9 form, there have been more than 10 different versions in the nearly 30 years during which the I-9 has been required. DHS expects to issue the newest version of the Form I-9 on or before November 22, 2016. DHS will allow employers to continue using the current version (issued in 2013) through January 21, 2017. Employers should use this two-month period to review and gain an understanding of the new Form I-9 before transitioning to it. We will provide a further update when DHS issues the new Form I-9.

The content of this article is intended to provide a general guide to the subject matter. Specialist advice should be sought about your specific circumstances.

Ms Anita Sorensen Foley ; Lardner 321 N. Clark, Ste. 2800 Chicago Illinois, 60610 UNITED STATES Tel: 3128324500
Fax: 3128324700E-mail: info@foley.com URL: www.foley.com

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Smiths Group decreases on average volume October 19, 2016 16:30 BST 10/19/2016

News Bites - Western Europe

BRITISH DAILY STOCK REPORT

Smiths Group PLC (L:SMIN), the largest General industrial company by market cap in the United Kingdom, has decreased GBX4.0 (0.3%) from its last trading session of October 18 to close at GBX1,480.0. Compared with the FTSE 100 Index which rose 21.9 points (0.3%) in the day, the relative price change was -0.6%. The volume of 1.4 million shares was close to average trading.

UPCOMING EVENT: DIVIDENDThe company announced a dividend of GBX28.75 per share; ex-dividend date is Thursday, October 20; the payable date is Friday, November 18.

SECTION 1SMITHS GROUP BEARISH SIGNALS

1.1 Fundamentals:+ The relative yield of the stock, defined by its yield of 2.8%, divided by average yield of dividend

yielding stocks in the FTSE 100 Index of 3.1% is 90.0%. This suggests the stock is overvalued in dividend yield terms.

1.2 Overvaluation [compared with sector average]:+ Price/Sales of 2 [1.4].

1.3 Low Performance Indicators:DescriptionValueRank In Market% Prem to Vol Wtd Price0.9In Bottom QuartileTotal Debt to Equity0.9In Bottom QuartileEPS Growth %6.9In Bottom QuartilePrice/Earnings/Growth3.4In Bottom 7%

SECTION 2SMITHS GROUP BULLISH SIGNALS

2.1 Fundamentals:+ Tobin's Q Ratio, defined as MCap divided by Total Assets, is 1.5. Compared with the rest of the market the stock is undervalued.+ Interest cover defined by EBIT/I is 6.9 times. This indicates it is less leveraged. + Over the last 3 years average annual compound growth rate of earnings per share was 64.5%. This is better than sector average of 54.5%.+ Net profit margin has averaged 8.8% in the last 3 years. This is better than the sector average of 5.3% and suggests a high margin of safety.+ As per the Du Pont analysis, Return on Equity of 17.3% is better than sector average of 12.1%. This is computed as net profit margin of 8.5% times asset turnover [sales/assets] of 0.73 times leverage factor [total assets/shareholders' equity] of 2.8.+ Net Profit margin and EBIT margin are positive and have seen consecutive rises in recent years. [Year ended, all figures in %]YearNet Profit MarginEBIT MarginJul 158.513.1Jul 147.912.3

2.2 Undervaluation [compared with sector average]:+ Price/Earnings of 23.9 [27.2]. We estimate Smiths Group stock is trading at a current year P/E of 25 and a forward year P/E of 26.4. + Return on Equity 17.3% [12.1%].+ Return on Assets 6.2% [4.3%].+ Return on Capital Employed 11.8% [8.5%].

2.3 Technicals:+ The 4.1% discount to 12-month high of GBX1,543.0 against the 74.6% premium to 12-month low of GBX847.72 suggests the stock continues to push for new highs. + In the last three months the stock has hit a new 52-week high twenty-four times, pointing to a significant uptrend. + The present value of GBP1,000 (PV1000) invested one year ago in Smiths Group is GBP1,606, comprising a capital gain of GBP544 and dividend reinvested of GBP62. PV10001-week1-month1-yearSMIN.L1,0001,0831,606FTSE 100 Index1,0001,0251,105+ The present value of GBP1,000 (PV1000) invested twenty years ago in Smiths Group is GBP3,226, including a capital gain of GBP1,428 and dividend reinvested of GBP798. + 20 years Multiplier in GBP = 3.226x+ Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in GBP = 6.0%Oct 19, 2016: GBP 1 equals USD 1.2309

2.4 High Performance Indicators:DescriptionValueRank In MarketToday's TurnoverGBP21.8 million (US\$26.8 million)In Top 6%Volatility %0.7In Top 8%Price/MAP2001.27In Top 9%Price/MAP501.03In Top Quartile

SECTION 3PRICE VOLUME DYNAMICS

3.1 Moving Annual ReturnSMINClose (GBX)Dividends (GBX)Capital Gain / (Loss) %% YieldAnnual Return %October 191,48041.2554.44.358.71 Yr ago958.7440.5(13.6)3.7(9.9)2 Yrs ago1,109.4576.08(10.0)6.2(3.9)3 Yrs ago1,233.2643.0634.64.739.34 Yrs ago916.3140.8322.15.427.6

3.2 Aggregate Volumes, Prices and Turnover Period:[Volume Index or VI in brackets; 1 is average] + London: SMIN.L 1,473,391 [VI of 1.0] volume 99.9% of aggregate. Price: GBX1,480.0. + OTCBB: SMGKF.OTCBB 1,461 [VI of 0.7] volume 0.1% of aggregate. Price: \$US18.30. Using the current exchange rate of USD1 equals 81.31GBX, The shares are at a 0.5% premium to the close price on London. + Aggregate volume: there were 1.5 million shares of Smiths Group worth GBX2.2 billion traded today. The aggregate volume equalled average trading of 1.4 million shares. The turnover rate in the 12 months to date was 64.6% (or a turnover period of 1 year 6 months). This average length of ownership of the stock at 77.5 times the average holding period of 7 days for stocks in the FTSE 100 Index suggests a larger number of core investors, making a long-term investment safer.

SECTION 4RANKING

4.1 Global Rank [out of 45,748 stocks] and Rank in the Europe Region [out of 7,669 stocks]DescriptionValueGlobal RankIn Eur RegionMcap (US\$)7.2B1,653367Total Assets (US\$)4.9B3,654734Revenue (US\$)3.6B2,615567Net Profit (US\$)302.8M2,160444Return on Equity %17.35,0201,037Net Profit Margin %8.511,1411,728Price/Earnings23.913,1322,539Yield %2.87,4021,312PV\$1000 (1Year) US\$*1,2809,4381,291US\$* Change (1Year) %22.110,2471,445

* 1 year ago GBP 1 = USD 1.54Oct 19, 2016: GBP 1 equals USD 1.2309

4.2 Independent RatingsSmiths Group PLC was ranked 789 in the Industry Week list of the world's largest 1000 manufacturers by Revenues in 2015; a deterioration over a year from rank 735 in 2014.It is the 1432nd largest by revenue in the Forbes Global 2000.It is placed 132/1279 in BSS News Bites' ranking of United Kingdom performers in the past year, a percentile ranking of 90.

SECTION 5SMITHS GROUP FINANCIALS

5.1 Financials SummaryYear endedJul 2015Jul 2014Jul 2013Sales (USD B)3.53.63.8Pretax (USD M)396.1368482.2Net (USD M)299.8284383.9EPS (GBP)0.620.580.79

5.2 Annual Report for the year ended July 31, 2015 (year-on-year comparisons with previous corresponding period)- Smiths Group Net Profit up 5.6%Smiths Group (L:SMIN) reported net profit for the year-ended 31 July 2015 of GBP246m (\$US383m), up 5.6% from GBP233m (\$US394m) in the previous year. Favourable Changes:+ Net profit up 5.6% from GBP233.0m (\$US393.7m) to GBP246.0m (\$US383.1m)+ EBIT Margin up from 12.3% to 13.1%.+ Interest cover up 17.7% from 5.9 to 6.9.+ Profit before tax to Sales up from 10.2% to 11.2%.+ Interest expenses to Sales down from 2.1% to 1.9%.+ Current ratio up 3.4% from 2.0 to 2.1.+ Working capital to total assets up from 18.4% to 21.2%.+ Retained earnings to total assets up from 15.7% to 18.7%.+ Total current assets to Total Assets up from 36.3% to 40.6%.+ Cash to Total Assets up from 5.3% to 12.4%.Unfavourable Changes:+ EBIT to total assets down from 10.2% to 9.5%.+ Total revenue to total assets down from 0.8 to 0.7.+ Sales and marketing expenses to Sales up from 13.5% to 14%.+ Debt to Equity up 16.2% from 0.8 to 0.9.+ Total non-current assets to Total Assets down from 63.7% to 59.4%.+ Current Debtors to Total Assets down from 17.8% to 15.5%.+ Total Liabilities to Operating Cash Flow of 9.6 compares unfavourably with the Joseph Piotroski benchmark of less than 4. This ratio has deteriorated by 5.8% from the previous year's ratio of 9.1.Note:+ EPS steady at GBX62.0 (US96.56c).+ Cost of Goods Sold to Sales down from 55.1% to 54%.+ Tax expenses to Sales up from 2.3% to 2.7%.+ Total liabilities to Total assets steady at 0.6.+ Intangibles to Total Assets down from 43.3% to 38.1%.

5.3 Trailing 12 Months DividendsTrailing 12 Months ToValue (GBX)19 Oct 201641.2519 Oct 201540.519 Oct 201476.0819 Oct 201343.0619 Oct 201240.83

SECTION 6SMITHS GROUP PROFILE

6.1 ActivitiesSmiths Group plc engages in the development, manufacture, sale, and support of products and services for the threat and contraband detection, energy, medical devices, communications, and engineered components markets worldwide. The company offers security equipment, including trace detection, millimetre-wave, infrared, biological detection, and diagnostics equipment that detect and identify explosives, narcotics, weapons, chemical agents, biohazards, bio threat detectors, and contraband products. It also provides mechanical seals, seal support systems, engineered bearings, power transmission couplings, hydrodynamic bearings, specialist filtration systems, and other hardware products for the oil and gas, chemical, pharmaceutical, pulp and paper, and mining sectors. In addition, the company offers medical devices aligned to specific therapies, primarily airway, pain and temperature management, infusion, needle protection, critical care monitoring, vascular access, application-specific connectors, and convective warming blankets. Further, it provides electronic and radio frequency products that connect, protect, and control critical systems for the wireless telecommunications, aerospace, defense, space, medical, rail, test, and industrial markets; and engineered components, such as ducting, hose assemblies, and heating elements that move and heat fluids for the aerospace, medical, industrial, construction, and domestic markets. Additionally, the company offers microwave components and sub-systems for the defense and homeland security markets. Smiths Group plc founded in 1851 and is headquartered in London, the United Kingdom.

6.3 Top ManagementThe chairman is George Buckley and the chief executive officer is Andrew Reynolds Smith.

6.4 Issued CapitalBased on 394,430,000 issued shares the market capitalisation is GBP5.8 billion (US\$7.2 billion).

SECTION 7REPORTED BUYING AND SELLING

Insider Buying and SellingReported Buying:June 10: Smiths Group substantial shareholder buysSmiths Group (L:SMIN) substantial shareholder JM Finn & Co Nominees Limited bought 5,000 shares worth GBP55,850 (\$US80,793) on June 10. The purchase price was GBP11.17.

Reported Selling:October 03: Smiths Group director sellsSmiths Group (L:SMIN) director Chris O'Shea sold 17,600 shares worth GBP255,775 (\$US331,894) on September 30. The selling price was GBP14.53.

SECTION 8STOCK BUZZ

Corporate WireTo view Recent Company Headlines, click
http://www.buysellsignals.net/BuySellSignals/report/Unitedkingdom/Stock/Daily/Link/Announcements_2378.htmlOctober 13: Smiths Group: Annual Financial ReportOctober 01: Smiths Group: Total Voting RightsSeptember 30: Smiths Group announces dividendSeptember 28: Smiths Group: Final ResultsSeptember 23: Smiths Group to divest Artificial Lift business

Contact: 44-20-84583232Physical Address: 2nd Floor, Cardinal Place, 80 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 5JL, United KingdomState/Province/Country: United KingdomExchange: London Stock Exchange

ISIN: GB00B1WY2338L:SMIN; LON:SMIN; LN:SMIN; SMIN.LPermID: 1-4295895196

Source: www.BuySellSignals.com

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Digital Barriers rises 1.1% on high volatility October 19, 2016 16:30 BST 10/19/2016

News Bites - Western Europe

BRITISH DAILY STOCK REPORT

Digital Barriers PLC (L:DGB), the 63rd largest Support services company by market cap in the United Kingdom, traded between an intraday low of GBX43.50 and a high of GBX46.0. The price range has expanded in the last two days (from GBX1.0 two days ago to GBX2.50 today) which, accompanied by a price rise, is a bullish signal. The average daily volatility of 3.9% places the stock in the 2nd quartile in the market, meaning it is the moderately volatile. Today its volatility (highest price minus lowest price/lowest price) of 5.7% was 1.5 times the average daily volatility of 3.9%, up from 2.2% on Tuesday and 2.2% on Monday. A rise in the price on high volatility is a bullish signal. The stock price has increased 0.50 GBX (1.1%) from its last trading session of October 18 to close at GBX46.0. Compared with the FTSE 100 Index which rose 21.9 points (0.3%) in the day, the relative price increase was 0.8%. The volume was 0.02 times the average trading volume of 119,997 shares.

SECTION 1DIGITAL BARRIERS BULLISH SIGNALS

1.1 Fundamentals:+ Tobin's Q Ratio, defined as MCap divided by Total Assets, is 0.9. Compared with the rest of the market the stock is undervalued.+ The company is cash rich with Cash to Market Capitalisation at 33.7%.

1.2 High Performance Indicators:DescriptionValueRank In MarketRevenue Per EmployeeGBP2.6 million (US\$3.2 million)In Top 3%Cash to MCap %33.7In Top 9%Price Change %1.1In Top Quartile

SECTION 2DIGITAL BARRIERS BEARISH SIGNALS

2.1 Fundamentals:Overvaluation [compared with sector average]:+ Price/Sales of 3.6 [1.0].

2.2 Technicals:+ The price decreased 1.1% in the last week and 1.1% in the last month. + The present value of GBP1,000 (PV1000) invested five years ago in Digital Barriers is GBP357, for a capital loss of GBP643. + 5 years Multiplier in GBP = 0.357x+ Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in GBP = -18.6%Oct 19, 2016: GBP 1 equals USD 1.2309

SECTION 3PRICE VOLUME DYNAMICS

3.1 Technicals:+ Digital Barriers is at a discount of 17.1% to its 12-month high of GBX55.50 on January 12. It is also at a premium of 26.0% to the 12-month low of GBX36.50 on July 12. + The present value of GBP1,000 (PV1000) invested one year ago in Digital Barriers is GBP958, for a capital loss of GBP42. PV10001-week1-month1-yearDGB.L989989958FTSE 100 Index1,0001,0251,105

3.2 Beta & Alpha:+ Beta: the Beta of Digital Barriers stock is 0.4. A Beta lower than 1 suggests this is a low risk, low return stock with volatility less than that of the market. + Alpha: the Alpha of the stock is -7.4. The actual return of -2.11% fell short of the expected return of 5.3%, reflecting underperformance.

3.3 Turnover Rate & Turnover Period:

+ The turnover rate in the 12 months to date was 15.99% (or a turnover period of 6 years 3 months). This average length of ownership of the stock at 312.5 times the average holding period of 7 days for stocks in the FTSE 100 Index suggests a larger number of core investors, making a long-term investment safer.

SECTION 4RANKING

Global Rank [out of 45,748 stocks] and Rank in the Europe Region [out of 7,669 stocks]DescriptionValueGlobal RankIn Eur RegionMCap (US\$)93.5M21,1183,393Total Assets (US\$)99.1M22,8573,852Revenue (US\$)26M26,1974,397Net Profit (US\$)(15.5M)37,6146,159Return on Equity %(23.2)32,2605,588Net Profit Margin %(59.7)33,1635,704Price to Book3.823,7254,139PV\$1000 (1Year) US\$*76431,1014,997US\$* Change (1Year) %-25.230,8534,924

* 1 year ago GBP 1 = USD 1.54Oct 19, 2016: GBP 1 equals USD 1.2309

SECTION 5DIGITAL BARRIERS FINANCIALS

5.1 Financials SummaryYear endedMar 2016Mar 2015Mar 2014Sales (USD M)25.814.623.2Pretax (USD M)(10.4)(22.9)(18.4)Net (USD M)(15.4)(21.8)(17.8)EPS (GBP)(0.12)(0.26)(0.26)

5.2 Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 2016 (year-on-year comparisons with previous corresponding period)- Digital Barriers reports Loss of GBP12.6m (\$US18.2m)Favourable Changes:+ Total revenue to total assets up from 0.2 to 0.3.+ Cost of Goods Sold to Sales down from 56.8% to 50.2%.+ Interest revenue to Sales up from 0.4% to 1.1%.+ Total non-current assets to Total Assets up from 39.4% to 44.1%.Unfavourable Changes:+ Loss of GBP12.6m (\$US18.2m).+ EBIT Margin of -40.1%.+ Operating Cash Flow is negative.+ Current ratio down 21.1% from 2.3 to 1.8.+ Working capital to total assets down from 34.0% to 24.8%.+ Total current assets to Total Assets down from 60.6% to 55.8%.+ Cash to Total Assets down from 32.7% to 31.8%.+ Net tangible assets per share down 29.6% from GBP0.27 (US\$39.7c) to GBP0.19 (US\$26.9c).Note:+ Amortisation to Sales down from 16.5% to 7.2%.+ Depreciation to Sales down from 5.3% to 2%.+ Total liabilities to Total assets steady at 0.3.+ Intangibles to Total Assets up from 38.1% to 43.1%.+ Current Debtors to Total Assets down from 16.7% to 16.4%.

SECTION 6DIGITAL BARRIERS PROFILE

6.1 ActivitiesDigital Barriers plc provides consulting, integration, and technology services to homeland security and defense sectors in the United Kingdom and internationally. The company focuses on counter-terrorism and cyber-security. Its consulting services include helping the clients in identifying and prioritizing their security requirements based on threat assessments, risk analyses, and security evaluations. The company also manages and engineers security installations and improvement projects for secure buildings. It serves secure government, public spaces, border security, airports, seaports, mass-transit, energy and utilities, and defense markets. Digital Barriers plc was incorporated in 2010 and is based in London, United Kingdom.

Industry & SectorClassification LevelName of SectorEconomic SectorIndustrialsBusiness SectorIndustrial & Commercial ServicesIndustry GroupProfessional & Commercial ServicesIndustryBusiness Support Services

6.3 Top ManagementThe chief executive officer is Zak Doffman.

6.4 Issued CapitalBased on 165,106,000 issued shares the market capitalisation is GBP75.9 million (US\$93.5 million).

SECTION 7STOCK BUZZ

Corporate WireTo view Recent Company Headlines, click
http://www.buysellsignals.net/BuySellSignals/report/Unitedkingdom/Stock/Daily/Link/Announcements_3435.htmlOctober 18: Digital Barriers agrees 10m credit facilityOctober 12: Digital Barriers: Trading Update and US ThruVis ContractOctober 10: Digital Barriers and G4S technology partnershipSeptember 23: Digital Barriers: Result of AGMSeptember 20: Digital Barriers: US Contract Awards

Physical Address: Enterprise House, 1-2 Hatfields, London, SE1 9PG, United KingdomState/Province/Country: United KingdomExchange: London Stock Exchange

ISIN: GB00B627R876L:DGB; LON:DGB; LN:DGB; DGB.LPermID: 1-5000668552

Source: www.BuySellSignals.com

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Meet the senators: Ron Johnson works to raise his profile among voters while Russ Feingold tries to reintroduce himself

10/19/2016

Chippewa Herald, The

Voters were fed up with the political establishment and looking for a change. They wanted an outsider, someone whose name they hadn't heard a million times before, someone not entrenched in the Washington bureaucracy. Their call was answered by a wealthy businessman whose frustration with the government matched their own, who had never before held elected office, who wasn't part of the problem.

The year was 2010 and an Oshkosh plastics manufacturer named Ron Johnson delivered an unexpected blow to a name synonymous with Wisconsin politics, defeating Russ Feingold by five points and replacing him in the U.S. Senate.

Six years later, many of the same attitudes and frustrations have contributed to the rise of Donald Trump within the Republican Party. The billionaire businessman is in an ugly battle with a name synonymous with American politics: Democratic former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Back in the Badger State, Johnson and Feingold will meet on the ballot again as the Democrat angles to become the third former senator since 1956 to return to the seat he once held.

For an incumbent, Johnson has struggled, not once taking the lead in the state's most reliable public polling. But he's also managed to tighten up the scorecard in the final weeks, while the presidential contest has proven the 2016 electoral climate is nothing if not unpredictable.

'He's a Republican'

Ron Johnson pulled his silver minivan into the driveway of Steve and Sally Miller's dairy farm on a gray Friday morning in late September. He stepped out, clad in jeans and a striped dress shirt, and warmly greeted the extended family assembled in front of the Millers' home.

After a few moments of chatting about the history of the farm, Johnson retrieved a bright-red Wisconsin pullover from the van. It was one of the first finger-numbingly brisk days of autumn and the sky couldn't seem to make up its mind whether to rain, settling instead on a constant mist.

Tucked among the rolling hills of La Crosse County, the Millers' farm grows a cash crop of corn and soybeans and is home to 60 dairy cows. A friend active in the county Republican party had asked Steve and Sally a few days before if they'd be interested in hosting the senator, and they obliged.

"He's a Republican," Sally said with a grin when asked what she liked about the senator. "And most of all, he's going to go to bat for the farmers."

Steve gave a small smile when asked what Johnson has done that he supported.

Ron Johnson in La Crosse County: "I've actually gotten real results."

"Well," he said, pausing to laugh. "To be honest with you, I really don't know a lot about Sen. Johnson ... All I've ever heard is good things about him. One person was saying he's accomplished more in his term in office than what Mr. Feingold ever did, you know, in all the time that he was there."

Steve Miller is not unlike other Wisconsinites in his knowledge of Johnson's career. On average over the last three months, 28 percent of voters told the Marquette University Law School poll they didn't know enough about the senator to have an opinion about him — despite his incumbency and role as chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security — compared to 21 percent for Feingold. The most recent poll, released last week, showed Johnson shrinking that number to 20 percent.

Still, Johnson's perspective lines up with what the Millers said they're looking for in a senator.

Regulations, particularly governing the agriculture industry, have grown out of control, they said. They're looking for someone who will rein them in. Steve Miller is also concerned about trade and cracking down on illegal immigration.

"If we can keep some of the immigrants out of here and try and put some of our local people to work, I think at the end of the day a lot of these people will feel a lot better about themselves, too," he said.

They'd like to see markets opened up so they can start exporting more of their products, the Millers said.

They're feeling the squeeze from large-scale dairy operations, which they said affect their bottom line but also have a more negative impact on the environment than small operations like theirs.

"It's tough," Sally said. "Because right now the prices are so low and our investments are so high that it's been a tough year."

Steve said he doesn't believe in asking for government subsidies, but that doesn't mean lawmakers don't play a role in enacting policies that will help the industry. Politics plays a much larger role in agriculture now than it did years ago, he said.

And in turn, agriculture plays its own role in politics. Johnson accepted endorsements that day from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Dairy Business Association, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association and Wisconsin Pork Association.

The primary driving forces behind their endorsements were trade agreements, environmental regulations and immigration: pro-Trans-Pacific Partnership, anti-Waters of the U.S. Rule and generally encouraging some sort of guest

worker program.

A.V. Roth of the Wisconsin Pork Association said the Obama administration's Waters of the U.S. Rule could "affect farmers' right to best utilize their land."

Johnson said Feingold paved the way to what he considers government overreach with his Clean Water Restoration Act for Waters of the U.S., which seeks to define which bodies of water fall under the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers and are covered by the Clean Water Rule.

On immigration, Johnson said, "the number one component of my border security bill would be a functioning guest worker program, so farmers ... actually have a legal system to get the workers to milk the cows, to pick the vegetables, to clean our hotels. That's something we have to do. That's extremely important."

Cody Heller of the Dairy Business Association praised Johnson for that stance. He said dairy farmers lose sleep over concerns about illegal labor.

"He's ... focusing on getting a plan that actually works for us that's legal, that's within the realm of the law, that keeps our country safe," Heller said.

While most people at the event said they want to see the senator come out in support of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Johnson still declined to take a clear position on the deal, instead stating repeatedly that he is for "free and fair trade" and adding that he would be "happy to have a President Trump negotiate a better deal." He reiterated as he has throughout his campaign that he is giving "thoughtful" consideration to the agreement, while Feingold gave a "knee-jerk" reaction in opposing it.

"The more doors we can open, the more trade barriers we can take down to get our products out, the happier agriculture is," said Joe Bragger of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

Bragger said it's Johnson's stance on trade, the Waters of the U.S. rule and delisting wolves as an endangered species that have earned him the Farm Bureau's support. Johnson has "gone out of his way" to acknowledge the concerns of the agriculture industry, Bragger said.

And Feingold?

"It seems like we all start (small) and then drift away, and then we forget," Bragger said. "I've got to remind myself as Farm Bureau director, I'm so glad that every day I go back home and farm. Every day I'm still involved at the county level in Farm Bureau, because that means I still have my feet in it. You get pulled away long enough, you've lost reality ... and I think (Johnson) is not that far removed that he's still not one of us. I think that's important."

Johnson's campaign has sought to paint Feingold as a career politician — a Washington insider who cares more about returning to the seat than serving constituents — who has abandoned the principles that once defined him.

"My background over the 34 years when he was a career politician, most of that 34 years I was involved in the private sector building a good Wisconsin manufacturing company, producing Wisconsin jobs, and then in the very short period of time that I've been your United States senator, I've used that same kind of outsider perspective — and trust me, it's a completely different perspective," Johnson said. "I'm the only manufacturer in the United States Senate."

Russ Feingold, seen here in Wausau, has made seniors' issues an area of focus in his campaign, along with student loan debt, trade, paid family leave and wage equality.

On the campaign trail, Johnson has taken to urging supporters and journalists to ask Feingold what he accomplished during his tenure in public office. Asked about his own legislative accomplishments, Johnson touted the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, an effort to protect government agencies from hackers, and a bill that made it easier to hire military veterans as Customs and Border Protection officers.

"I've actually gotten real results. Again, he's got the one high-profile failure, campaign finance reform. I've got dozens — I guess low-profile — dozens of low-profile successes," Johnson said.

'The real deal'

"I like career politicians," said Mary Ellen Schmelzer, of Wausau, as she and her husband Bill waited for Feingold to arrive for an event with senior citizens at Yawkey Park in downtown Wausau. "That's a heck of a job."

"Hey, you know what?" Bill interjected. "I've got a career doctor."

"Come on," Mary Ellen continued, "let's not put down people because they make a career of service."

The supporters who would soon stand behind Feingold for a news conference on seniors' issues spoke of him in near reverence. The Schmelzers said they've "always" voted for him, calling him the "real deal."

The "career politician" label is a positive one, said Bob Coleman, of Weston. The alternative, he said, is a "manufacturer moonlighting as a senator."

A few minutes later, a dark blue minivan pulled up next to the park. From the back emerged Feingold and his wife, Christine Ferdinand, whom he later pointed out to the crowd as a recent retiree.

The sun shone through the turning leaves of the trees that served as a green-and-gold backdrop for the news conference on a warm but crisp early October afternoon. Feingold, grinning and waving while sporting a plaid shirt with gray slacks and a navy sport coat, joined the line of supporters backing his stances on Social Security, Medicare and prescription drug prices.

Feingold has made seniors' issues an area of focus in his campaign, along with student loan debt, trade, paid family leave and wage equality. He frequently portrays Johnson as out-of-touch and beholden to corporate interests over the needs of Wisconsinites.

The former senator looked on with a smile as Jon "Bowser" Bauman, of the band Sha Na Na, hammed for the small group and the two TV cameras, flexing and making faces before he praised the former senator for his positions on issues that affect seniors.

Bauman, a co-founder of the political action committee Senior Votes Count, was there along with Max Richtman of the National Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare to endorse Feingold.

Bauman said the race could be the second-most important one in the country in 2016, calling Feingold "one of the greatest champions on senior issues Congress has ever seen." Johnson, he said, has been "particularly dreadful" in that area.

Feingold said he believes Social Security should be preserved and protected as a public program, while Johnson has indicated a willingness to consider privatizing it. He also voiced his support for maintaining Medicare as a public program, and said Congress should pass a law to allow the United States to negotiate lower drug prices with the pharmaceutical industry.

For Coleman, the most important issues when considering a candidate to support have always been "jobs and integrity in government."

Johnson: "I'm just a little manufacturer from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, just a citizen legislator."

"Both of which are woefully in trouble right at the moment, especially when you consider the nincompoop who's running for president," he said before pausing to ask forgiveness for calling Trump a "nincompoop."

"I have others but, having spent three years in the Navy, I have acquired a picturesque vocabulary. And I could use a good many of those expressions on the Republican Party at this moment," he said.

Coleman likened Feingold to William Proxmire, who represented Wisconsin in the Senate from 1957 to 1989. The main concern for both Proxmire and Feingold, Coleman said, was the people of Wisconsin and the United States.

Both Proxmire and Feingold had reputations as liberal Democrats who occasionally bucked the party line.

"Our current Senate is dominated by people whose concern is themselves. There are more than 70 millionaires in the United States Senate," Coleman said. "How can a majority of millionaires really care about a World War II veteran on a pension? They don't have any idea what it would be like. Now, I was a teacher for 48 years. And I had a real concern about government, even though I was an English teacher. I have six kids and 17 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, and I am concerned about the shape of the world for them."

Johnson's net worth is estimated at a minimum of \$13.4 million, while Feingold's is estimated between \$328,000 and \$795,000.

Coleman was especially critical of Johnson's opposition to holding hearings to consider President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, accusing him of not doing his job as a senator.

Mary Ellen Schmelzer credited Feingold's votes against the Patriot Act and the Iraq War as the main reasons for her

longtime support.

"I think he's honest, and I think he wants to get all kinds of graft out of politics, and that's important to me. I want our democracy to be healthy," she said.

Her husband, Bill, lauded Feingold's support for "constitutional principles of liberty and justice for all, emphasis on all." They are put off by Johnson's approach to corporate regulations, which they said is too lax.

"I like Hillary (Clinton)'s thing of 'we're all in this together,'" Mary Ellen said.

Coleman, when asked about specific accomplishments from Feingold's time in the Senate, said six years ago is a long time to remember at his age. But he indicated his support was more about an attitude and approach to the job than a specific policy item.

"He just simply cared about us in Wisconsin," he said. "You could talk to him."

Feingold quickly dismissed Johnson's suggestions that he has nothing to show from his years as a senator aside from the now-gutted McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform legislation. The Middleton Democrat said Johnson would know about his accomplishments if he had traveled throughout the state and listened to people.

"If he'd gotten around the state and gotten to western Wisconsin, he'd find out that the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, which was a very difficult issue for some 30 years, was resolved in a tremendously positive way. It's a beautiful natural reserve at this point because of my efforts as well as others," Feingold said. "You go up to northern Wisconsin, where he rarely goes, up to the top of the state, we now have a beautiful national lakeshore, the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. We made sure that was permanent."

Feingold continued: he authored the bill that created Wisconsin's nationally recognized Alzheimer's program while in the State Senate, worked with Democratic former Sen. Herb Kohl to protect the state's SeniorCare prescription program and was the first lawmaker to initiate national legislation on racial profiling — although it was never passed.

Feingold: "I don't throw around this silly language about other people not accomplishing anything."

And his greatest accomplishment, he said, was playing a "critical role" along with other lawmakers in erasing the national deficit when Bill Clinton was president.

"And by the way, I could go on for a long time, but the point here is that's just a political trick," Feingold said. "Sen. Johnson is using this because he's a politician who's in trouble. He's saying this in order to try to prevent people from being able to actually think about the future, which is what counts."

Feingold said Johnson never "rolls up his sleeves" and accomplishes things on a bipartisan basis.

"So I don't throw around this silly language about other people not accomplishing anything, but if he had even bothered to listen to the people of Wisconsin, he'd know very well that we've done much together, and we're going to do a lot more together," he said.

'The same set of alternatives'

For political observers watching the race, round two isn't all that different from the first time Johnson and Feingold faced off.

"It's very close, like it was for most of the time six years ago," said Mike Wagner, University of Wisconsin-Madison associate professor of political science and journalism.

UW-Madison political science professor Barry Burden agreed that 2016 looks "an awful lot" like 2010.

"The candidates have starkly different positions on the big issues of the day, especially the Affordable Care Act, but also taxes, trade, and the environment," Burden said. "Johnson continues to criticize Feingold as a career politician and Feingold continues to criticize Johnson's personal finances. Voters this year are essentially facing the same set of alternatives they were presented with six years ago."

But there are some major differences in the external factors and political landscape affecting the the race. Johnson's 2010 victory came in a midterm election with a Democratic president in office, on the heels of the Great Recession. Obama is on his way out now, leaving a slowly improving economy behind.

Johnson's re-election effort stands in the shadow of a volatile presidential election that has defied conventional wisdom

with every zig and zag.

"In other states with a competitive Senate race, Republicans have been running ahead of Trump. Wisconsin has been an outlier most of this year because Johnson's standing has been parallel to Trump's," Burden said. "However, in recent days there's been some daylight between the two Republicans. This separation is probably due to Johnson's new ad campaigns that have helped to better define him and Feingold, but it also reflects general distaste with Trump's recent comments and actions that have set him apart from everyone else in politics."

Johnson's campaign has sought to tie Feingold to Clinton throughout the race in an effort to capitalize on her relative unpopularity and her second-place finish in the state's Democratic presidential primary, painting them both as members of the political elite. Much of Johnson's campaign advertising this fall has attempted to unveil his "softer side," highlighting his involvement with a faith-based employment program and his work to help a family adopt a child from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Meanwhile, Johnson stands apart from most other vulnerable Republican senators with his continued support for Trump in the wake of a string of allegations of sexual misconduct stemming from a 2005 recording of the candidate bragging about sexually predatory behavior.

"I'm just a little manufacturer from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, just a citizen legislator. So I'm not a political pundit," Johnson said in September, before the sexual assault allegations surfaced. "I think certainly the history of this election is, nobody can predict. We are in uncharted water right now. So, I've got my own race to run, I've got my own record. Prior to ever becoming involved in elected office, and in a very short period of time, a record of real results here."

For Republican leaders in Wisconsin trying to motivate voters without discussing Trump, the Senate race has given them a contest on which to focus their efforts.

"It's one of those where every vote is going to count," Gov. Scott Walker told the conservative crowd at the 1st Congressional District Republican Party of Wisconsin Fall Fest earlier this month. Trump, who was bumped from the event after the 2005 recording surfaced, wasn't mentioned as Walker told the party faithful there "couldn't be a more important race than Ron Johnson's race for Senate."

Both candidates appear to go out of their way to avoid referring to themselves as "senator," instead eagerly pinning the title to their opponent. Wagner said that's "a little peculiar," but it's clear "both candidates are reading the anti-elitism in the Wisconsin electorate."

Feingold acknowledged the similarities in the anti-government sentiments in both the 2010 and 2016 elections, but said that concern is rooted in middle-income and working families who aren't "getting a fair deal."

"Every six years, if you pay attention to what's happening in the world, you never get exactly the same feelings. The difference this time is that six years ago, everybody was kind of in a bad situation because of the economic collapse that was not caused by Barack Obama, but more by (President George W.) Bush and his policies," Feingold said. "But now we have this discrepancy, where people at the top are doing really well. Sen. Johnson's buddies that he always votes with are doing great ... What's happening though is that people who work hard every day aren't getting a fair deal. Their wages are stagnant, they see their jobs being shipped overseas, and people have figured out what's going on, which is some people are really doing well, and Sen. Johnson helps them every time. The rest of us aren't doing so great. That needs to change."

While the presidential contest has shifted more heavily in Clinton's favor among Wisconsin voters, Johnson has chipped away at Feingold's lead, now a two-point advantage among likely voters.

Part of that could be linked to Republican voters who, while unenthusiastic about or opposed to Trump, have decided they will still show up on Election Day to support Republican candidates down the ticket, Wagner said. Johnson has also run effective advertising, he said.

But at the same time, Feingold has had some success "reintroducing himself ... as approachable 'Russ' who is in touch with the concerns of regular Wisconsinites," Burden said.

"Johnson is most effective when he portrays himself as a common sense business man," he said. "Feingold gets the upper hand when highlighting Johnson's unpopular positions such as the minimum wage and climate change."

At this point, any small factor — debates, get-out-the-vote efforts or campaign ads — could be the one to propel a candidate to victory, Wagner said.

Burden said the outcome will likely boil down to two factors: how closely the Senate race is linked to the presidential campaign and which candidate voters believe is more in touch with everyday Wisconsinites.

"It's a close race, so most things that they can do aren't likely to matter much," Wagner said. "But in a close race, anything could be the difference."

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Child migrations spike

10/19/2016

Dallas Morning News, The

The tide of migrant families with minors and of children traveling alone to the U.S., mostly from Central America, has equaled the surge of 2014 that nearly overwhelmed Border Patrol resources, federal immigration officials said Monday.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said they detained 137,366 migrants in those two categories in the fiscal year that just ended. Slightly fewer, 136,983, were detained in fiscal 2014.

That was when White House officials deemed the flow a "surge" and a humanitarian crisis. Experts say violence is spurring more people to flee their homelands in El Salvador and other parts of Central America, especially women and children.

The release of the new migration numbers comes just three weeks before the presidential election, in which immigration issues and border issues with Mexico have played prominently in the campaign of Republican nominee Donald Trump.

The new apprehensions also underscore a dramatic change in migration, noted by Jeh Johnson, the head of the Department of Homeland Security: Mexicans no longer make up the majority of border apprehensions, and the demographics of unauthorized migrants on the nation's southern border have changed significantly over the last 15 years.

"Far fewer Mexicans and single adults are attempting to cross the border without authorization, but more families and unaccompanied children are fleeing poverty and violence in Central America," Johnson said.

Johnson noted that in 2014, Central Americans caught at the border outnumbered Mexicans for the first time. "In 2016, it happened again," Johnson said in a written statement.

The renewed tide of migrants from the Central American countries of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala reflects the deepening violence there, experts say. They also say poverty and the desire to reunite with family members already in the U.S. are factors.

"The causes of migration haven't changed at all," said Wendy Young, the president of Kids in Need of Defense, or KIND.

Among new arrivals this year to the Dallas area is Glenda Flores. She came north with her 12-year-old daughter and her 4-year-old son from Honduras, entering the U.S. in the Rio Grande Valley.

Honduras is simply too violent, she said. "They kill people all the time," said Flores, who is fighting her deportation case by asking for asylum. DMN

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Washington: Will Hurd, Homeland Security Heavyweight

10/19/2016

US Official News

Washington: Office of the MP Will Hurd has issued the following news release: Hurd, a freshman Republican congressman, represents Texas's 23rd congressional district, which wraps itself most of the way around San Antonio, then spreads out westward, covering 29 counties out to the eastern edge of El Paso — an area, in toto, larger than 26 states. The highway speed limit for most of the trip is 80 mph (God bless Texas), and it still takes ten-and-a-half hours to cross. Since taking office in January 2015, Hurd has done more than 400 in-district events. "I ran for office for two reasons," Hurd says: "To be a leader in national security, and to be the gold standard when it comes to constituent relations." In Texas-23, the two go hand-in-hand.

San Antonio has one of the largest populations of active and retired military personnel anywhere in the U.S., and the Department of Defense's largest medical center is at Fort Sam Houston; there's a reason they call it "Military City." It is also home to NSA Texas and the largest cybersecurity employment hub outside of Washington, D.C. But not only is

Hurd responsible for a good deal of that; he is also the congressman with the single-longest stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border — more than 800 miles of it, dividing up (at least theoretically) the expanse of sun-beaten terrain so friendly to drug smugglers, human traffickers, and any others who might prefer to enter America surreptitiously. When, in 2006, the Supreme Court struck down the boundaries redrawn during Texas's much-contested 2003 redistricting, they inadvertently led to the creation of one of the most interesting congressional districts in the nation — a 58,000-square-mile territory that boasts a Silicon Valley-style tech boom alongside old-time ranching operations, pristine Big Bend National Park alongside the Permian Basin fracking boom, wealthy suburban San Antonio alongside border-city barrios. They also created one of the country's most hotly contested congressional seats. Following the Court's decision a decade ago, Republican Henry Bonilla lost his bid for an eighth term to Ciro Rodriguez, a Democrat, who served two terms before losing to a Republican, Francisco "Quico" Canseco, who lost after one term to Democrat Pete Gallego, who lost to Hurd in 2014. Gallego has now engineered a rematch, having won the Democratic primary earlier this year. Since his upset victory in 2014, Democrats have had set their sights on Hurd. He's exactly what they fear: a young, dynamic, African-American Republican representing a majority-Hispanic district. He's also not your average politico. Prior to his election, Hurd advised on cybersecurity issues for Crumpton Group LLC, a D.C.-based strategic-consultancy firm founded by Henry Crumpton, a longtime operative in the CIA's Clandestine Service. It was an obvious fit. After graduating from Texas A&M in 2000 (he was student-body president at the time of the fatal bonfire collapse), he spent the next nine-and-a-half years with the CIA, conducting undercover intelligence-gathering operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He was "the guy in the back alleys at 4 a.m.," he likes to say. Trying to talk confused congressmen through the distinction between Sunni and Shia Islam prompted Hurd's transition to a more public form of public service. Since arriving on Capitol Hill, Hurd has focused on pushing a bloated federal bureaucracy to get serious about cybersecurity. Just how urgent is that need became clear last year, when it was revealed that hackers had infiltrated the federal Office of Personnel Management, absconding with the personnel files of 4.2 million former and current government employees and security-clearance background-investigation information on 21.5 million individuals dating back to the Reagan administration. The full extent of the attack was chronicled in "The OPM Data Breach: How the Government Jeopardized Our National Security for More than a Generation," a report from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform released last month and co-authored by Hurd. "Here's what is so frustrating about the OPM hack," he says, summarizing the scathing rebuke in the report: "It wasn't like it was an incredibly sophisticated attack. They leveraged vulnerabilities that were known and should've been fixed." Hurd has put forward legislation to address these and other failures. Last year, Congress passed his "DHS IT Duplication Reduction Act," which requires the Department of Homeland Security to supply Congress with a list of information-technology systems it is using, and cut down on overlapping systems — something that's not sexy, Hurd recognizes, but is important. It also passed, as part of the appropriations omnibus, his "EINSTEIN Act," which requires all federal agencies to make use of intrusion-detection and -prevention technology known as "EINSTEIN." He hopes for more sweeping reforms. The House has passed his "Modernizing Government Technology Act" and "State and Local Cyber Protection Act," and he's introduced the "MOVE IT Act" ("MOVE" = "Modernizing Outdated and Vulnerable Equipment"). "We have systems for which vendors stopped providing support in 1993, but these technologies are still being used on our networks," says Hurd. "It's crazy." For Hurd, these policies must be part of a larger reorientation toward the challenges raised by a digital age: "What constitutes a digital act of war? How should we think about that? What is an appropriate response?" But Hurd is also occupied with real, physical borders — which, as is no secret, are also dangerously porous. For him, it's a question of allowing law enforcement on the ground to adjust their tactics and procedures as they see fit, but also to think bigger: "We can't think of the Rio Grande as the actual edge. We have to be thinking further, and working with our compatriots in Mexico." That, says Hurd, is a crucial step toward, among other things, chastening the 19 criminal organizations coming into the U.S. illegally, disrupting and endangering the lives of those who live near the border. Unsurprisingly, his name is attached to a great deal of legislation related to border security, from his "Enhancing Overseas Traveler Vetting Act" and "Foreign Fighter Review Act," which have passed the House, to his "Strong Visa Integrity Secures America Act," introduced in May. Making constituents aware of these and other accomplishments is part of the reason for those 400-plus in-district events. But Hurd is interested in something more: introducing conservatism to voters, perhaps thousands of them, who otherwise might never encounter it. How to do that? "It starts with showing up in communities where the Republican party hasn't been," says Hurd. "You show up and say hello and show that you care." "You're not going to do it overnight, it's a prolonged effort," but it's possible. "When they know that you care, they're open to listening to you and trusting you." To people for whom conservative politics is life, Will Hurd is difficult to classify. He's certainly not part of the "Establishment." He's also not a "Tea Partier." He's a pro-life, free-trade, national security-focused conservative who wants to broaden conservatism's coalition. He is, in other words, what a vibrant, future-oriented conservatism could look like. Is that of interest to the voters of Texas-23? We'll find out. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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**SECOND CALIFORNIA MAN WHO PARTICIPATED IN CONSPIRACY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ISIL
SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**
10/19/2016
States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Department of Justice:

Muhanad Elfatih M.A. Badawi, 25, of Anaheim, California, was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison for conspiring with another man to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a designated foreign terrorist organization.

The announcement was made by Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security Mary B. McCord, U.S. Attorney Eileen M. Decker of the Central District of California and Assistant Director in Charge Deirdre Fike of the FBI's Los Angeles Office. The sentence was issued by U.S. District Judge David O. Carter.

At the conclusion of a trial in June, Badawi was found guilty of conspiring with another man to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, as well as aiding and abetting his codefendant's attempt to provide support to ISIL, and for federal financial aid fraud designed to generate funds for the scheme.

Three weeks ago, Judge Carter sentenced Badawi's codefendant Nader Elhuzayel, 25, also of Anaheim, California to 30 years in prison.

"Defendant Badawi was a radicalizer, recruiter and facilitator, and like codefendant Elhuzayel, defendant Badawi aspired to die a martyr fighting jihad for ISIL," prosecutors wrote in a sentencing memorandum filed with the court.

"With this sentence, Muhanad Badawi is being held accountable for conspiring to provide material support to ISIL and other federal offenses," said Acting Assistant Attorney General McCord. "The National Security Division's highest priority is countering terrorist threats, and we will continue to work to stem the flow of foreign fighters abroad and bring to justice those who conspire to provide material support to designated foreign terrorist organizations."

"The lengthy sentence imposed today results from the defendant's acceptance of ISIL's murderous ideology and his participation in a scheme designed to betray the United States," said U.S. Attorney Decker. "Badawi and Elhuzayel wanted to fight for ISIL, desired to become so-called martyrs, and supported ISIL's terrorist activities. Prosecutions such as this are critically important to our national security."

"The defendant, like his co-conspirator, pledged his allegiance to a terrorist organization instead of the United States, as he attempted to recruit and radicalize others to support the group, which calls for the murder of Americans," said Assistant Director in Charge Fike. "The investigative efforts by Joint Terrorism Task Force partners are commendable and the significant sentence the defendant received illustrates the gravity of this crime and the threat the defendants posed to the United States."

The evidence at trial showed Elhuzayel and Badawi used social media to discuss ISIL and terrorist attacks, repeatedly expressed support for ISIL and made arrangements for Elhuzayel to leave the U.S. to join the terrorist organization. In recorded conversations, Elhuzayel and Badawi discussed how "it would be a blessing to fight for the cause of Allah, and to die in the battlefield," and they referred to ISIL as "we." Badawi maintained a Facebook account on which he made posts that supported ISIL and violence aimed at non-Muslims. Badawi used social media to communicate with ISIL supporters to distribute pro-ISIL propaganda.

According to the trial exhibits, on Oct. 21, 2014, Badawi made a video of Elhuzayel swearing allegiance to the leader of ISIS and pledging to travel to join ISIS to be a fighter for the organization.

Badawi and Elhuzayel were arrested on May 21, 2015, as Elhuzayel attempted to board a plane at Los Angeles International Airport in California to travel to Turkey to join ISIL. Badawi purchased Elhuzayel's one-way ticket on Turkish Airlines for Elhuzayel to travel to Israel, with a layover in Istanbul, Turkey. In an interview with the FBI, Elhuzayel admitted that he intended to deplane in Turkey and seek contacts to facilitate joining ISIL.

Badawi and Elhuzayel have been held in federal custody without bond since their arrests.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in Orange County, which includes the Anaheim Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Secret Service, IRS Criminal Investigation, the City of Orange Police Department, the Irvine Police Department, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Orange County Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, the U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI. The Department of Education's Office of Inspector General provided significant assistance in the investigation and at trial.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Judith A. Heinz and Deirdre Z. Eliot of the Terrorism and Export Crimes Section, and Julius J. Nam of the General Crimes Section. Trial Attorney Michael Dittoe of the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section provided substantial assistance.

KATY COUPLE ENTERS GUILTY PLEAS IN NANNY CASE

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas:

The Katy couple charged in relation to the enslavement of their nanny have been convicted, announced U.S. Attorney Kenneth Magidson. Sandra Nsobundu, 49, entered a plea to unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of forced labor, while her husband - Chudy Nsobundu, 57, pleaded to visa fraud.

According to testimony in a court hearing today, from on or about Sept. 29, 2013, and Oct. 10, 2015, the couple maintained a Nigerian woman to serve as a housemaid and nanny at their residence in Katy.

The immigration laws and regulations of the U.S. require citizens of certain foreign countries who seek admission to the U.S. to obtain a visa prior to entry. The application must contain true and accurate information and is submitted under oath. The defendants knowingly caused a false visa application for the victim to be submitted to the Department of State with numerous pieces of false information. These included the woman's incorrect date of birth identifying her as 20 years older than she was, a false statement that she was married when she was not, a false statement indicating the purpose of travel was to attend a niece's graduation and a written letter falsely stating that Chudy Nsobundu was her brother. Chudy Nsobundu knowingly made multiple material misrepresentations under oath on the visa application to increase the chances that the victim's visa application would be accepted and to hide the fact that she would be working for the Nsobundu family as a housemaid and nanny under conditions not in compliance with U.S. labor laws. He submitted the application under oath, knowing the application contained these material misrepresentations.

Sandra Nsobundu aided and abetted in the submission of the fraudulently filed visa application her husband had submitted. In September 2013, Sandra Nsobundu took the woman to the U.S. Embassy in Lagos, Nigeria, to obtain her visa. Sandra Nsobundu gave her a letter to provide to the consular officials which indicated she did not speak English well and that she would be traveling to the U.S. for her niece's graduation. Sandra Nsobundu gave the woman a picture of Chudy Nsobundu and the family and told her to tell the officials that he was her brother. The victim is not a relative of Chudy Nsobundu and is not married. The spouse listed on her visa application is the Nsobundus' driver in Nigeria.

After obtaining the woman's visa, the Nsobundus paid to transport the victim from Nigeria to the U.S. Once here, Sandra Nsobundu took the victim's passport and copies of her bank statement. The defendants then concealed, removed and possessed the woman's passport and visa with the intent to violate the forced labor statute. As part of the plea today, they intended to prevent and restrict, without lawful authority, the victim's liberty and ability to move and travel in order to maintain her labor and services.

The couple knowingly unlawfully obtained the labor and services of this woman from on or about Sept. 29, 2013, to Oct. 10, 2015. Throughout the period she worked for defendants, the victim was not permitted to have her passport or visa. The Nsobundus knowingly enacted a scheme intended to cause the woman to believe that failure to perform the labor and services would result in serious harm to her. They also threatened abuse of law and the legal process. The scheme included not paying the victim and restricting her movement to the defendants' residence or two short walks per day around the block with the children. They also frequently yelled at, scolded and berated the victim for moving too slowly or failing to care for the children in the manner they wanted. In addition, the Nsobundus threatened to send the woman back to Nigeria if she did not comply with their labor demands.

The U.S. Attorney's Office is seeking restitution in the amount of \$129,108 to the victim alleging the defendants owe that amount in back wages. The Nsobundus had previously agreed to pay the victim 20,000 Nigerian nairas-\$100 U.S. per month. The Nsobundus never paid the victim for any of her work here in the United States.

The victim was rescued Oct. 10, 2015, after more than two years with Nsobundus in the U.S. following a tip to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

Sandra Nsobundu faces a maximum of five years in prison, while her husband faces up to 10 years imprisonment. Both could also face up to a \$250,000 fine. They were permitted to remain on bond pending sentencing which has been set for Jan. 4, 2017.

Members of the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance conducted the investigation, which included Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations, Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, Department of State-Diplomatic Security Service and the Department of Labor-Wage and Hour Division. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ruben R. Perez and Julie N. Searle are prosecuting the case.

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CBP ARRESTS MEDICARE FRAUD FUGITIVE

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers arrested a passenger Oct. 17, at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on an outstanding federal arrest warrant.

The warrant was originally part of the FBI's largest national Medicare fraud takedown in history which took place in June 2016.

Lidia Antonio, 57, is one of 12 in Dallas who was originally named in the indictment issued out of the Northern District of Texas for the following charges: health care fraud and conspiracy to commit health care fraud.

CBP officers had received information that the U.S. citizen, who departed the U.S. after the indictment, would be arriving to Dallas. CBP officers contacted the FBI and subsequently turned custody of the fugitive over to FBI agents.

"CBP routinely works with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies," said Dallas CBP Port Director Cleatus P. Hunt Jr. "This arrest is a recent example of the collaborative efforts we take in carrying out our law enforcement duties."

The fugitive was subsequently booked into the Dallas County jail. If convicted she faces a count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and substantive health care fraud count which carries a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is merely allegations and all defendants are presumed innocent until or unless found guilty in a court of law.

On a typical day fiscal year 2015, CBP officers arrested 23 wanted criminals at U.S. ports of entry.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

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AMERICA'S MOST WANTED FUGITIVE ARRESTED AT PORT OF NOGAL

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

Mexican authorities turned over a U.S. citizen fugitive to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Port of Nogales Oct. 14.

Richard Max Randolph, 63, was listed on "America's Most Wanted" website in December 2015 as being wanted by US Marshals for "failure to register as a sex offender." The posting states that Randolph a tier 3 sex offender convicted of oral sexual battery on a child. (Tier 3 is the highest possible level for a sex offender, considered the greatest risk to the public and greatest risk to re-offend).

CBP officers took custody of Randolph at the DeConcini pedestrian crossing. After conducting a records check to confirm the active arrest warrant, out of St. Charles Parish in Louisiana, CBP officers turned Randolph over to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department.

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I-19 CHECKPOINT STAYS BUSY TWO DAYS IN A ROW

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

Tucson Sector Border Patrol agents assigned to the Interstate 19 checkpoint near Amado recently found three illegal migrants in the trunk of one vehicle and, during another encounter, seized several bundles of cocaine found in the door panels of a pick-up truck.

The first event occurred Monday morning when agents working with a Border Patrol canine discovered three adult Mexican nationals in the trunk of a Hyundai Sonata. Agents arrested the driver, a U. S. citizen who now faces federal charges. The Mexican nationals are being processed in accordance with agency guidelines.

With the help of a Border Patrol canine, agents at

the Interstate 19 traffic checkpoint located three

Mexican nationals in the trunk of a vehicle that was stopped

Today, agents referred the driver of a Chevrolet pick-up truck for secondary inspection after a Border Patrol canine alert. A subsequent search of the vehicle turned up several packages of cocaine weighing more than over 55 pounds, valued in excess of \$630,000. The driver was arrested and faces drug smuggling charges.

Checkpoints remain a critical piece of infrastructure for U.S. Customs and Border Protection; considered highly effective in halting the flow of contraband and other illegal traffic into the United States.

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PAYNE, JR. LEADS LETTER URGING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO CONSIDER ENDING USE OF PRIVATE PRISONS

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the office of New Jersey Rep. Donald Payne:

Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. (NJ-10) led a letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson requesting the department consider ending its use of private prisons if those facilities are found to be less safe and effective than government-run facilities.

"We write today to commend the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for following the Department of Justice's (DOJ) lead in reassessing its contracts with private prison operators and to ask that if your conclusions mirror DOJ's, then DHS should cease contracting with private prison operators," the Members of Congress wrote.

In an August 18, 2016, memorandum, Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates instructed the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to either decline to renew private prison contracts or "substantially reduce" the scope of the contracts, with the goal of "reducing and ultimately ending our use of privately operated prisons." Yates concluded that "[Private prisons] simply do not provide the same level of correctional services, programs, and resources; they do not save substantially on costs; and as noted in a recent report by the Department's Office of Inspector General, they do not maintain the same level of safety and security."

Following Yates's announcement, Secretary Johnson directed a DHS advisory council to evaluate whether Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) should move in the same direction as DOJ.

Immigration detention has seen exponential growth in recent decades, and the use of private prisons for immigrants far surpasses the use of private prisons for federal and state prisoners. In their letter, the lawmakers note that "Sixty-two percent of DHS's immigration detention beds are in privately operated facilities. By comparison, only 8.4 percent of federal and state prisoners were incarcerated in private prisons as of 2014."

Congressman Payne, Jr. was joined on the letter by Reps. Charles Rangel (NY-13), Frank Pallone (NJ-06), Jose

Serrano (NY-15), Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30), Lloyd Doggett (TX-35), Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18), James McGovern (MA-02), Hank Johnson (GA-04), Ted Lieu (CA-33), and Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12).

[Click here for a PDF of the letter.](#)

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DOUGLAS CBP OFFICERS SEIZE \$223K IN MARIJ

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

Customs and Border Protection officers at the Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry in Douglas, Arizona, arrested two men during separate weekend attempts to smuggle a combined \$223,000 worth of marijuana into the United States.

When officers checked underneath the hood

of a suspect vehicle, they discovered multiple

packages of marijuana

After officers referred a 29-year-old Douglas man for further inspection of his Isuzu SUV Oct. 14, a CBP narcotics-detection canine helped officers locate nearly 290 pounds of marijuana, worth approximately \$145,000, hidden throughout the vehicle.

On Oct. 16, when a 36-year-old male resident alien in a Ford pick-up truck attempted to enter the United States, a narcotics-detection canine alert led officers to find almost 157 pounds of marijuana, worth more than \$78,000.

Officers seized the marijuana and vehicles, and turned both subjects over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE DAY COMES TO BUFFALO ON NOVEMBER 2

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

Border Improvements Briefing, Workshops and Individual Networking with Border Officials and Agencies from U.S. and Canada

Date: November 2, 2015

Time: 9 am to 12 pm Open to the public

Place: Harbor Center Ice Rinks and Marriott Hotel

95 Washington Street, Buffalo, NY

(Adjacent to Key Bank Arena)

TRADE DAY SCHEDULE

9 am to 10 am: Can-Am Border Improvements Briefing Panel

10 am 12 pm: Concurrent Workshops and Individual Networking with Border Officials/Agencies

Workshop Schedule

10 am 11 am

Business Mobility/Immigration Issues for the U.S. and Canada

Cyril Joseph, Program Manager, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Rich Misztal, Program Manager CBP Immigration Liaison

Implementation of the Single Window through ACE

CBP and the Partner Government Agencies are finalizing the march to implementation of the Single Window as mandated by the President's Executive Order. This panel will cover recently deployed capabilities and the remaining mandatory transition targeted for January 2017. In addition, CBP will cover initial plans for ACE post-2016, including an update of ACE truck manifest.

ACE Business Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Kimberly Marsho, Director, Communications and Training

Jonathan Veley, Branch Chief, Readiness and Deployment

Shari McCann, Branch Chief, Communications

11 am 12 pm

FDA Imports Today FDA Overview and Current Issues

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Sandra Sylvester, Director, Import Operations, New York District/Upstate

Shannon DiNardo, Import Specialist, New York District/Upstate

Implementation of the Single Window through ACE

10 am -12 pm - Individual Networking with Border Agencies and Officials

Participants

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Personnel (invited):

Import and Entry Specialists

Agriculture Specialists

Homeland Security Investigations

ABI - Automated Broker Interface Client Representatives

C-TPAT - Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Supply Chain Specialists

ACE Automated Commercial Environment Business Office

Industrial Manufacturing and Materials Center for Excellence and Expertise

Cargo Inspection Officers

NEXUS Trusted Traveler Officials

National Account Managers

Participating Government Agencies (invited):

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Treasury Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

U.S. Small Business Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Canada Border Services Agency

Canada Food Inspection Agency

For more information, contact: Linda.Soltis@international.gc.ca 716 566 2322

Or Tammy Hudson at Tammy.L.Hudson@cbp.dhs.gov 716 843 8316

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THIRD DEFENDANT IN NORTH IDAHO DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION PLEADS GUILTY

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Idaho:

Augustine Jackson, 32, of Williston, North Dakota, pleaded guilty yesterday to conspiracy to distribute heroin, oxycodone and methamphetamine, U.S. Attorney Wendy J. Olson announced. Jackson was indicted by a federal grand jury in Coeur d'Alene on April 19, 2016.

During the court hearing, Jackson admitted that she was part of a drug trafficking organization. The organization sold heroin, oxycodone and methamphetamine in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota and Eastern Washington. Jackson helped the organization by selling and transporting controlled substances and by making sure the profits went to the appropriate co-conspirator. In addition to pleading guilty, Jackson agreed to forfeit any interest she has in real property, jewelry or cash held by herself or by conspirators as outlined in the indictment.

In addition to Jackson, two other co-defendants have pleaded guilty. Geena Lauren Milho, 25, of Williston, North Dakota pleaded guilty on September 14, 2016, to conspiracy to distribute heroin, oxycodone and methamphetamine. Milho will be sentenced on January 18, 2017. Sherlann Simon, 34, of North Las Vegas, Nevada, pleaded guilty on October 11, 2016, to conspiracy to launder money. Simon will be sentenced on January 19, 2017.

The charge of conspiracy to distribute controlled substance is punishable by up to 20 years in prison, a maximum fine of \$1,000,000, and at least 3 years supervised release.

Sentencing is set for March 7, 2017, before Chief U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill at the federal courthouse in Coeur d'Alene.

The case was investigated by CDA Police, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations (IRS-CI), Kootenai County Sheriff, North Idaho Violent Crimes Task Force (NIVCTF), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The indictment is the result of a joint investigation of the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), which included the cooperative law enforcement efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, and U.S. Marshals Service. The OCDETF program is a federal multi agency, multi jurisdictional task force that supplies

supplemental federal funding to federal and state agencies involved in the identification, investigation, and prosecution of major drug trafficking organizations.

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FOUR APPREHENDED WITH \$.5 MILLION IN DRUGS

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

Customs and Border Protection officers arrested four involved in separate weekend attempts to smuggle more than \$500,000 worth of cocaine and methamphetamine through the Port of Nogales.

Officers at the Mariposa crossing referred a 36-year-old woman from Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, for a secondary inspection of her Volkswagen sedan Oct. 15. After a CBP narcotics-detection canine alerted to one of the vehicle's rear quarter panels, officers found more than 21 pounds of cocaine worth in excess of \$243,000.

Also on Oct. 15, a CBP canine working alongside officers at the Mariposa crossing helped locate more than 15 pounds of cocaine, worth in excess of \$175,000, and more than 5 pounds of meth, worth more than \$15,000, under the rear seats of a Hyundai SUV. Officers arrested the female driver, 33, and her 29-year-old female passenger, both of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

A CBP narcotics detection canine alerted

to the undercarriage of a smuggling vehicle,

where officers located and removed nearly

25 pounds of meth from beneath the exhaust system

A CBP canine also assisted with a third seizure Oct. 14 at the Dennis DeConcini crossing by alerting officers to a Volkswagen sedan transporting nearly 25 pounds of methamphetamine worth more than \$74,000. Officers arrested the driver, a 25-year-old man from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

Officers seized all drugs and vehicles used in the smuggling attempts, and turned the subjects over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

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CBP OFFICERS AT THE HIDALGO PORT OF ENTRY SEIZE OVER \$350K IN COCAINE

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations (OFO) at the Hidalgo International Bridge seized alleged cocaine valued at \$365,160 hidden within a red 1999 Ford Expedition.

"Our officers continue to make outstanding seizures of dangerous drugs," said Port Director Efrain Solis Jr., Hidalgo/Pharr/Anzalduas Port of Entry. "Our officers are committed to safeguarding our borders."

Packages containing more than 47 pounds of

cocaine seized by CBP officers at Hidalgo/Pharr/

Anzalduas Port of Entry

The seizure took place on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Hidalgo International Bridge when a 27-year-old male Mexican

citizen who resides in Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico applied for entry into the United States driving a red 1999 Ford Expedition. The driver was referred to CBP secondary for further examination after a primary inspection. After a physical inspection of the vehicle, the use of a non-intrusive imaging inspection (NII) and the assistance of a canine team, officers discovered 20 packages allegedly containing approximately 47.35 pounds of cocaine.

CBP officers seized the narcotics along with the vehicle, arrested the driver and turned him over to the custody of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation.

For more information about CBP, please click on the attached link.

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BROWNSVILLE PORT OF ENTRY CBP OFFICERS SEIZE \$110,000 IN HEROIN AT GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

10/19/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Gateway International Bridge intercepted a load of alleged heroin. CBP officers discovered the alleged narcotics, valued at approximately \$110,000, hidden within a beige 2004 Chevy Malibu.

"Our officers used professional judgment and their experience to achieve this seizure," said Port Director Petra Horne, "These dangerous narcotics were intercepted and our streets are safer."

Packages containing nearly five pounds of heroin

seized by CBP officers at Brownsville Port of Entry

The seizure took place on Saturday, Oct. 15, at Gateway International Bridge when a 32-year-old male Mexican citizen who resides in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, applied for entry into the United States driving a beige 2004 Chevy Malibu. The driver was referred to CBP secondary for further examination. In secondary, with the help of a K-9 unit, CBP officers discovered two packages hidden within the vehicle. CBP officers removed the packages which contained a total of 4.85 pounds of alleged heroin valued at approximately \$110,000.

CBP officers seized the narcotics along with the vehicle, arrested the driver, and turned him over to the custody of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation.

For more information about CBP, please click on the attached link.

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Last published:

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Just Half of Illegal Immigrants Caught Last Year

10/19/2016

State Capital News Feed

Oct 19, 2016(Western Free Press: [http://www.westernfreepress.com/Delivered by Newstex](http://www.westernfreepress.com/Delivered%20by%20Newstex)) Those tasked with apprehending illegal immigrants caught just one half [1]of those that entered the country last year, according to a report from Homeland Security. In a different statistic, Homeland Security had put forth a 81 percent success rate.

The more accurate 54 percent success rate was only released when the report was obtained by the Associated Press. Prior to this, the department was not planning on releasing their report on illegal immigrants. The Department, in

response to the release, claimed that the 54 percent statistic was merely one in a comprehensive set of research on border security. The Department also stated that it did not believe that the statistic would be interesting to the public. Meanwhile, last year saw an uptick[2] in illegal immigrants traveling as families, as well as the number of unaccompanied minors. While hard numbers for this year have not been released, deportations have dropped during President Obama's second term. While admitting the government does need to do a better job at equipping border security, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson claimed that mere enhancement would not solve the problem. The Department of Homeland Security had predicted a surge in illegal immigrants last year, and the new report will undoubtedly allow the issue to continue influencing the presidential election. Secretary Johnson also called for[3] a way for the nearly 11 million illegal immigrants currently residing in America to get 'right with the law'. He also called for solutions that would combat the 'push' conditions that caused Central Americans to seek out the United States. While a surge of goodwill has ever been what makes America exceptional, those that believe in border security insist the border must be made reasonably secure. Until a secure border exists, illegal immigration will continue to put an undue burden upon American social services. As the debt is already so pervasive, the government will be unable to help any that it seeks to, immigrant or citizen. Image Source: Markaristos/Wikipedia

URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigration_to_the_United_States#/media/File:US-border-notice.jpg[4]

License: Public Domain The post Just Half of Illegal Immigrants Caught Last Year[5] appeared first on Western Free Press[6]. [1]: <http://www.kcra.com/article/nearly-half-of-illegal-border-crossers-weren-t-caught-report-says/6502698> [2]: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/oct/17/illegal-immigration-surged-23-percent-last-year/> [3]: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3847374/Illegal-immigration-soars-24-400-000-people-stopped-border-trying-enter-US.html> [4]: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigration_to_the_United_States#/media/File:US-border-notice.jpg [5]: <http://www.westernfreepress.com/2016/10/19/just-half-illegal-immigrants-caught-last-year/> [6]: <http://www.westernfreepress.com>

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France Homeland Security & Public Safety Market 2015-2020 - market will grow at a CAGR of 15.6%

10/19/2016

PR Newswire

"France is at war [...] the security pact will have precedence over the stability pact" President Francois HollandeThe November 13, 2015 Paris well-planned terror attack demonstrated that the present French security and intelligence apparatus does not have the resources to address future ISIS terror challenges. A major overhaul of France's internal security infrastructure and funding is already underway. Based on 6 months of intensive market research, interviews and analysis we forecast that the 2015-2020 market will grow at a CAGR of 15.6%, a dramatic growth from the 3.7% CAGR during 2000-2015.

As stated by the French president, the government is fully aware of the fact that France is facing problems with a far greater reach than its economic ones. ISIS terror threats coupled with the surge in arrival of millions of migrants to Europe are alarming facts that show no signs of declining. Apart from declaring a 6-month state of emergency, the president guided the government to fund whatever is necessary to combat terrorism. The two-volume * + one "France Homeland Security & Public Safety Market - 2016-2022" report is the most comprehensive review of France's internal security market available today. It provides a detailed and reasoned roadmap of this growing market. Counter Terror & Public Safety Market is boosted by the following drivers that will transform and drive France's security market over the 2016-2022 period. The Friday, November 13 Paris terror carnage shook France unlike any other recent terror attack, since they were complex and well-planned. The transformation of France's security infrastructure is best expressed in the words of President, Francois Hollande: "France is at war [...]. They (security measures) will necessarily result in extra spending, but under these circumstances, I believe that the security pact will have precedence over the (economic) stability pact". Up to 1,600 French nationals traveled to fight in Syria and Iraq and approximately 2,000 French citizens are involved in extremist Islamic cells in France. Europol estimates that up to 5,000 European jihadists have returned to the continent after obtaining combat experience on the battlefields of the Middle East. France is caught between a rock and a hard place - if it remains a country with inadequate counter terror funding. France's market for security & safety products is sophisticated and well served. Local defense and security companies are well entrenched in the French market. Even with a preference for locally manufactured products, foreign products can usually strongly compete on the basis of price and innovation. They do not encounter any direct trade barriers or quotas. Non-tariff, indirect trade barriers may be the approval process of dual-use goods, which include various security market products. This report is a resource for executives with interests in the industry. It has been explicitly customized for the security industry and government decision-makers in order to enable them to identify business opportunities, developing technologies, market trends and risks, as well as to benchmark business plans. Questions answered in this 475-page two-volume + one* report includes: What will the market size and trends be during 2016-2022? Which submarkets provide attractive business opportunities? Who are the decision-makers? What drives the French Homeland Security & Public Safety managers to purchase solutions and services? What are the customers looking for? What are the technology & services trends? What is the market SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats)? What are the challenges to market penetration & growth? With 475 Pages, 66 Tables and 151 Figures, this 2-volume + one* report covers 9 Vertical, 9 Technology and 3 Revenue Source Submarkets, offering for each of them 2015 data and

assessments, and 2016-2022 forecasts and analyses.* The "Global Homeland Security & Public Safety Industry - 2016 Edition" report is a free of charge Bonus for multi-reader license customers and is offered at half price to single-reader customers.

Why Buy this Report?

A. Market data is analyzed via 3 orthogonal perspectives:

- With a highly fragmented HLS & Public Safety market we address the "money trail" - each dollar spent - via the following 3 viewpoints:**
 - By 9 Vertical Markets including:** Airport Security, Smart Borders, Immigration Enforcement & Border Security, Intelligence Agencies, Critical Infrastructure Protection, Police Modernization & Other 1st Responders, Public Events & Safe City Building & Perimeter Security, CBRN Security & Safety, Other Vertical Markets (including Maritime Security, Mass transportation Security and Oil-Gas Industry Security).
 - By 3 Revenue Sources including:** Products Sales, Maintenance & Service, Upgrades, Refurbishment, Planning, Training and Consulting.
 - By 9 Technology Markets including:** Cybersecurity, Counter Terror & Crime IT, Communication Systems & Devices, Biometrics, Video Surveillance Technologies, Intrusion Detection Systems, Border & Perimeter Security Technologies, Explosives & Weapons Detection Technologies, Other Technologies (including: C2/C4, ISR Systems, NLW, Counter IED, Personal Protective Gear and more).
- B. Detailed market analysis frameworks for each of the market sectors, including:** Market drivers & inhibitors, Business opportunities, SWOT analysis, Competitive analysis, Business environment.
- The 2015-2020 market segmented by 51 submarkets.**
- C. This is the only report that addresses the HLS & Public Safety dual-use markets:** 76% of the French market revenues derives from dual-use products. For example, cybersecurity systems are used to address both cyber-crime and cyber-terror. Decision-makers forming their strategy need a complete view of this overlapping market both independently and in their intersections.
- D. The report includes the following 5 appendices:**
 - Appendix A: French Counter Terror & Public Safety Agencies
 - Appendix B: European Security Related Product Standards
 - Appendix C: The European Union Challenges and Outlook
 - Appendix D: The European Migration Crisis
 - Appendix E: Abbreviations
- E. The report addresses over 90 technologies including:** Access Control Systems, Automated Border Control (ABC) Gates, Backscatter X-Ray Container-Vehicle Screening Systems, Bio-Agents & Infectious Disease Detection, Biometrics, Biosecurity and Biosafety Devices & Systems, Bio-Terror & Infectious Disease Early Alert System Devices & Systems, Boarding Gate Explosives Scanners, Border & Perimeter Barriers, C2/C4, ISR Systems, Capacitance Sensors, Fence, CBRN and Hazmat Personal Protective Gear, Cell Broadcast, Mass Emergency Notification, Chemical Agent Detection, Chemical, HAZMAT & Nuclear Detection, Coherent Scatter, 2D X-Ray Systems, Communication Systems & Devices, Cybersecurity, Decontamination of CBRN & HAZMAT Incidents, Desktop ETD Devices, Dual Energy LINAC X-Ray Container-Vehicle Screening Systems, Dual-View LINAC X-Ray Container-Vehicle Screening Systems, Dumb Fences, Electronic Fencing, Emergency Management IT Systems, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Devices & Systems, E-Passports, Fiber Optic Fence, Gamma Ray Systems, Container-Vehicle Screening Systems, Hand Held Metal Detectors, Handheld ETD Devices, Homeland Security & Public Safety IT Systems, Human Portable Radiation Detection Systems (HPRDS), Hybrid Tomographic EDS & 2D X-Ray Screening, IED Placement Detection, Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), IT Intelligence Community Big Data, IT Intelligence Community Cloud Infrastructure, IT Intelligence Community Software as a Service (SaaS), IT Intelligence Services, IT Interoperable Communication Systems, Intrusion Detection Systems, Ion Mobility Spectroscopy (IMS), Liquid Explosives Detection Devices, Luggage, Baggage & Mail Screening Systems, Maritime Awareness Global Network (MAGNET), Mass Emergency Notification Devices & Systems, Metal detection Portals, Multimodal Biometric Systems, Narcotics Trace Detection Devices, Natural & Manmade Disaster Early Warning systems, Non-Lethal Weapons (NLW), Nuclear/Radiological Detection Devices & Systems, Other Security Technologies, People Screening MMWave (AIT) Portals, People Screening X-Ray Backscatter (AIT) Portals, Perimeter Security Technologies, Personal (Ballistic & CBRNE) Protective Gear, Personal Body Armor, Platform as a Service (PaaS), Police Modernization Systems and Devices, Ported Coax Buried Line Fence, Rescue & Recovery Equipment, Respiratory Protective Equipment, Satellite Based Maritime Tracking, Shoe Scanners, Siren Systems, SkyBitz Global Locating System, Standoff Explosives & Weapon Detection Systems, Standoff Suicide Bombers Detection, Strain Sensitive Cables Fence, Suicide Bombers Borne IED (PBIED) Detectors, Suicide Bombers Detonation Neutralization, Taut Wire Fence, Text Alert Systems, The Advanced Spectroscopic Portals (ASP), Tomographic Explosive Detection Systems (EDS), Transportable X-Ray Screening Checkpoints, VBIED Detonation Neutralization, Vehicle & Container Screening Systems, Vehicle Borne IED (VBIED) Detectors, Vehicle Screening ETD Systems, Vibration Sensors Mounted on Fence, Video Analytics, Video Surveillance, Visa & Passport related IT, Voice Alert Systems, Wide Area Communications and Tracking Technology, X-Ray Container-Vehicle Screening Systems, X-ray Screening systems.
- F. The report addresses over 300 European Homeland Security and Public Safety standards (including links).**
- G. The report provides the number of passengers and number of screened cabin & checked-in baggage and luggage at each of the major airports by 2016 & 2020.**
- H. The supplementary* "Global Homeland Security and Public Safety Industry - 2016 Edition" report (updated in May 2016) provides the following insights and analysis of the industry including:**
 - The Global Industry 2016 status
 - Effects of Emerging Technologies on the Industry
 - The Market Trends
 - Vendor - Government Relationship
 - Geopolitical Outlook 2016-2022
 - The Industry Business Models & Strategies
 - Market Entry Challenges
 - The Industry: Supply-Side & Demand-Side Analysis
 - Market Entry Strategies
 - Price Elasticity
 - Past Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) Events.
- I. The supplementary* "Global Homeland Security and Public Safety Industry - 2016 Edition" report provides an updated (May 2016) and extensive information (including Company Profile, Recent Annual Revenues, Key Executives, Homeland Security and Public Safety Products, and Contact Info.) on the 119 leading Vendors in the industry, namely:** 3M, 3i-MIND, 3VR, 3x, LOGICAB, BBA, Accenture, ACTi Corporation, ADT Security Services, AeroVironment Inc., Agent Video Intelligence, Airbus Defence and Space, Alcatel-Lucent (Nokia Group), ALPHAOPEN, American Science & Engineering Inc., Anixter, Aralia Systems, AT&T Inc., Augusta Systems, Austal, Avigilon Corporation, Aware, Axis, AxxonSoft, Ayonix, BAE Systems, BioEnable Technologies Pvt Ltd, BioLink Solutions, Boeing, Bollinger Shipyards, Inc., Bosch Security Systems, Bruker Corporation, BT, Camero, Cassidian, CelPlan, China Security & Surveillance, Inc., Cisco Systems, Citilog, Cognitec Systems GmbH, Computer Network Limited (CNL), Computer Sciences

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 Systems Inc.General Dynamics CorporationGetac Technology CorporationHanwha TechwinHarris CorporationHewlett
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**U.S. Congress, part 1; Voters should elect representatives who bring Houston concerns up to Washington.
 10/19/2016
 Houston Chronicle**

United States Representative, District 2: Ted Poe Consider this not just an endorsement for Ted Poe, but also heartfelt support as the six-term congressman recovers from treatment for leukemia. A former criminal district judge known for his creative sentences and shaming tactics, Poe has cut a niche for himself as a dedicated public servant who is leading the fight against sex trafficking and who listens to the constituents of his sprawling district, which spirals around from Atascocita through west Harris County, northwest Houston, Montrose and Southampton. During his phone interview with the Houston Chronicle editorial board, we were particularly impressed by Poe's blunt critique of plans to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He instead called for more manned patrols of the Rio Grande and the use of observation blimps.

Poe's Democratic challenger, Pat Bryan, is a retired engineer with no prior political experience. United States Representative, District 7: James Cargas John Culberson didn't receive our endorsement in the contested Republican primary, and we don't plan on changing our minds for the general election. But this showdown will be Democrat James Cargas' third attempt to replace the eight-term Republican congressman, and, frankly, it is starting to get a bit repetitive. Meeting with the editorial board, Cargas, an energy attorney who works at City Hall, critiqued Culberson for failing to adequately advocate on behalf of the wealthy west Houston district, which stretches from West University through the Galleria to the Energy Corridor then north to Jersey Village. Throughout this election cycle, Culberson has faced criticism from Republicans and Democrats alike for being more of a busybody who panders to the tea party than a true representative. However, after two failed runs, Cargas' passion has grown listless, especially when placed next to Culberson's machine-gun staccato during their editorial board meeting. If this is how a political challenger feels after trying to run in a gerrymandered system, we can only imagine its effects on voters. United States Representative, District 9: Al Green If you're worried about flooding in Houston, then Al Green is your man in Washington. Over the past year, he's been working with his fellow Democrats, and across the aisle with Republicans, to push a bill that would prioritize federal spending on Houston's bayous. Now in his six-term, Green has inserted similar language into the must-pass Water Resources Development Act of 2016. Don't expect any of this to make major headlines, but if it ends up in the final bill, it will save homes and lives in our swampy city. Green's goal-oriented, dedicated attitude deserves praise - and re-election - from voters. The former justice of the peace represents a district that follows Beltway 8 from south Houston through Missouri City, Stafford and Mission Bend. His Republican challenger, Jeff Martin, did not meet with the editorial board. United States Representative, District 10: Michael T. McCaul Over his six terms in Congress, Michael T. McCaul has distinguished himself as a steely and smart leader on foreign policy. As chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, the former federal prosecutor is on path to become the Republican face of international relations and national security. His sprawling district, which extends between Houston and Austin suburbs, grants him a certain luxury of being able to focus on these national and international issues. Back on American shores, however, McCaul has aligned himself with a presidential candidate who continues to flatter Russia's aspiring despot and relishes in WikiLeaks' 21st century Watergate break-in. In fact, McCaul was the only contested representative in Houston who attended the Republican National Convention, according to the Texas Tribune. No doubt that the second wealthiest man in Congress

has his eye on higher ambitions. His name has been floated as a challenger to U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz. He would also be a natural fit for director of national intelligence - we'd just prefer it be in a Clinton administration. McCaul's Democratic challenger, Tawana W. Cadien, is a registered nurse who ran for this position in 2012.

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BRIEF: St. Francis man charged with producing child pornography

10/19/2016

Salina Journal

Oct. 19--A St. Francis man was charged Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Wichita with two counts of producing child pornography and two counts of committing a felony involving a minor while registered as a sex offender, according to a statement from acting U.S. Attorney Tom Beall.

The indictment alleges that on Jan. 15, Brett N. Cico, 31, took pictures of a 14-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in Sherman County.

If convicted, Cico faces a penalty of not less than 15 years and not more than 30 years on each count of production, and 10 years to be served consecutively on each of the other counts. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations investigated, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Hart is prosecuting.

-- Reporter Erin Mathews can be reached at 822-1415 or by email at emathews@salina.com

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Corrections Corp of America Conference Call on ICE Renewal of STFRC Contract and Release of 2017 Financial Guidance - Final

10/18/2016

Voxant Fair Disclosure Wire

Corporate Participants

* Cameron Hopewell

Corrections Corporation of America - Managing Director of IR

* Damon Hininger

Corrections Corporation of America - President & CEO

* David Garfinkle

Corrections Corporation of America - CFO

Conference Call Participants

* Kwan Kim

SunTrust - Analyst

* Ryan Meliker

Canaccord Genuity - Analyst

* Kevin McClure

Wells Fargo Securities - Analyst

* Ryan Cary

Jefferies - Analyst

* Rob LaQuaglia

Wells Fargo - Analyst

* Unidentified Participant

- Analyst

* Yeye Bonyes

Philadelphia Financial - Analyst

* Michael Kodesch

Canaccord Genuity - Analyst

Presentation

OPERATOR: Good morning. My name is Keith and I will be your conference operator. As a reminder, this call is being recorded. At this time I would like to welcome you to Corrections Corporation of America's investor update conference call.

(Operator Instructions)

I would now like to turn the call over to Cameron Hopewell, CCA's Managing Director of Investor Relations. Mr. Hopewell, you may begin.

CAMERON HOPEWELL, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF IR, CORRECTIONS CORPORATION OF AMERICA: Thanks, Keith. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you for joining us. Participating on today's call are Damon Hininger, President and Chief Executive Officer; and David Garfinkle, Chief Financial Officer.

During today's call our remarks will include forward-looking statements pursuant to the Safe Harbor provisions of the Private Securities and Litigation Reform Act. Our actual results or trends may differ materially as a result of a variety of factors, including those identified in yesterday's press release and in our Securities and Exchange Commission's filings, including the Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K reports.

You are also cautioned that any forward-looking statements reflect management's current views only and that the Company undertakes no obligation to revise or update such statements in the future. With that, I will now turn the call over to our President and CEO, Damon Hininger.

DAMON HININGER, PRESIDENT & CEO, CORRECTIONS CORPORATION OF AMERICA: Thank you, Cameron, and good morning and thank you to everyone for joining our call today. Also joining us here in the room is our Vice President of Finance, Brian Hammonds.

As you all know, yesterday we announced the successful renegotiation of our contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement for our South Texas Family Residential Center and provided updated 2016 and initial 2017 financial guidance. On today's call I plan to provide you with an update on the renegotiation with ICE and other recent business developments.

Following my remarks, Dave will provide a more detailed discussion on various puts and takes in our 2016 and 2017 financial guidance. Following Dave's remarks, we will open up the line for a question-and-answer session.

As you all know, for many years ICE has faced significant challenges as they attempt to maintain access to sufficient detention bed capacity to meet their needs within confines of a limited budget. A recent uptick in the number of apprehensions at our southwest border has driven demand for additional detention bed capacity, placing further strain on ICE resources, as Congress has not meaningfully increased their funding levels under the continued resolution that is funding the federal government through December 9.

The fiscal constraints our government partners must navigate present both a opportunity and a risk for CCA. The opportunity is to help our partners find even more flexible and creative ways to successfully carry out their respective missions. The risk is our partners often must ask us to do more with less. During the second quarter the administration at ICE issued a solicitation for one or more family residential centers for the housing and care of family units detained under the authority of The Immigration and Nationality Act.

Concurrently, ICE engaged us to consider modifying the scale and cost of services performed at the South Texas Family Residential Center in order to achieve a more cost-effective solution. Yesterday we announced that we have successfully amended our contract with ICE at our South Texas facility to provide a new lower fixed monthly payment, commencing in November of 2016, with a new five-year term extending through September 2021.

Concurrently, CCA and a third-party lessor of the South Texas Family Residential Center have agreed to modify the lease agreement to reflect a reduced monthly lease expense, effective November 2016, with a term concurrent with the IGSA. The need for family residential center capacity was sparked in 2014 by a humanitarian crisis at our Southwest border. And I am very proud of our Company's ability to quickly respond to the needs of our customers by delivering the only setting in the country that has been specifically designed for a family residential mission and meets ICE family residential standards.

Today, more than two years after we initially signed the contract for our South Texas Family Residential Center, the need for family residential center capacity appears to be greater than ever. The rate of family unit apprehensions in FY16 was 13% higher than it was in 2014 and 94% higher than it was in 2015. Providing a safe and humane environment for these families is an essential component of ICE infrastructure, allowing families to maintain unity while also providing their first opportunity to access medical care, education and legal assistance while they pursue their case in federal immigration courts.

The current alternatives ICE utilizes for family processing units do not provide for guaranteed access to the services delivered at our facility and we are pleased to continue to fulfill the mission ICE has laid out at our South Texas Family Residential Center. The amended contract provides for the elimination of certain costs that are no longer required as a result of moving to a more stable operating environment since we entered into the initial contract.

The most significant impact is a decrease to the level of staff who have performed exceptionally well since the exception of the contract. While it is very difficult to notify the affected professionals at the facility, we will work with each individual to identify other opportunities for them throughout our vast system. Taking this action was a necessary step to help us continue to provide the level of service and value expected by our government partner.

Before moving on to discuss other recent announcements and developments with our customers, I would like to provide a brief update on the Department of Homeland Security's review of privatized immigration detention facilities. On August 26, 2016, the Secretary of DHS, Jeh Johnson, passed the Homeland Security Advisory Council to establish a subcommittee to review and provide recommendations regarding current policy and practices utilized by ICE concerning privatized immigration detention facilities. The subcommittee is expected to complete this process and make recommendations to the Secretary by November 30, 2016.

As recently as last week, I personally was in DC meeting with members of the subcommittee to provide information about our Company and our operations we do on behalf of ICE. We appreciate the subcommittee's efforts to actively engage with our industry as they conduct their analysis. We look forward to continuing to engage with them and to provide them with unfettered access to our facilities and operations as they carry out their review.

CCA is very proud of the high quality services and flexible real estate solutions we provide to our partners at ICE, which is supported by the contract extension in South Texas we announced yesterday. Each of our facilities is subject to a robust set of independent audits commissioned by ICE, and all CCA facilities have consistently been found to be in compliance with the federal government's national standards.

Additionally, the most recent American Correctional Association's Independent Accreditation reviews of our ICE facilities resulted in CCA achieving scores in excess of 99% of tested standards across all facilities. ICE also employs several full-time on-site contract monitors who are dedicated to ensuring CCA facilities remain in compliance with all mandated federal standards and all conditions of our contracts with ICE.

Additionally, there are more than 500 ICE officials assigned to CCA's eight contracted facilities. We have provided mission-critical infrastructure and services to ICE and its predecessor agency, INS, for over 33 years. This has only been possible because of the consistently high-quality services we have delivered and the flexibility we have shown in responding to our customers' changing needs.

Building, staffing and operating new facilities to replace all of the capacity currently provided by the private sector would cost ICE billions of dollars and result in costly long-term obligations. By contracting for capacity and services from private providers like CCA, ICE is able to avoid being committed long-term into these obligations and utilize the flexibility of the private sector to meet its changing needs. All that to say is that we believe we provide these new solutions at a meaningful cost savings to the American taxpayer and are confident the subcommittee's review will draw similar conclusions.

I would also like to provide a brief update on our business with California, specifically the out-of-state capacity we

provide for the state. Dave is going to highlight our assumptions on California populations in his comments as it relates to our updated guidance.

On our second quarter 2016 conference call, I discussed the details of Prop 57, or the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016, a ballot initiative that will be evaluated by the voters in California this November. As a reminder, Prop 57, if passed would allow for the following: authorize parole consideration for people with nonviolent convictions who complete full sentence for their primary offense; have incentives for people in prison to encourage them to participate in and complete rehabilitation and education programs; require the Secretary of Corrections to certify that the regulations implementing these policies protect and enhance public safety; and also allow judges to decide whether a youth as young as 14 years old should be tried as an adult.

So a couple key points with this. First, our out-of-state facilities provide celled housing versus dormitory housing, meaning our facilities provide housing for a higher security-level inmate. Second, over 85% of the inmates we house for California are classified at Level 3 or above, which classifies them as medium security or higher. And finally, the state's Legislative Analyst's Office or LAO issued a report on Prop 57 and suggested its passage will result in annual cost savings in the tens of millions of dollars, which given the size of California's corrections budget, would appear to result in a relatively modest impact in 2017.

It should also be noted that Governor Brown has stated publicly that 80% of what Prop 57 does is already taking place under the force of federal court order. Passage of the ballot initiative would simply keep these measures in place after the federal court oversight of California prison system ends. Given what we know about Prop 57 and the recent growth in California's inmate populations over the last year, we have forecasted a limited effect on our out-of-state populations in 2017.

Every day we house approximately 65,000 inmates, detainees, or residents in more than 70 facilities across the country and lease nearly 6,000 beds to other operators to house inmate and resident populations. These mission-critical assets help meet the needs of more than 30 unique customers through more than 100 contractual agreements. Alternative capacity is, in most cases, not available as our government partners rely on the private sector for their necessary capacity or face meaningful overcrowding in our own systems.

This also continues to be a great deal of prison infrastructure in the United States that is significantly beyond its useful life and should be replaced in the near future. However, other public works infrastructure like transportation, education and utilities also require significant investment to modernize, as infrastructure as a whole has lacked proper investment for many, many years.

As you know, the need for new infrastructure has been frequently discussed during this recent election season. And CCA is positioned to assist government organizations in making investments to modernize their mission-critical criminal justice infrastructure while allowing them to maintain their borrowing capacity to address other infrastructure needs.

Because of these factors, there has been an over-reaction in the market to the long-term viability of our business. It reflects a fundamental misunderstanding in these market dynamics which underpinned our business and the value of our mission-critical real estate.

I personally purchased more shares in August, as did multiple members of our Board, prior to the closure of the trading window. Today I personally own more than 200,000 shares while having nearly 475,000 unexercised stock options and more than 50,000 unvested restricted stock units. I just hit my seven-year anniversary as CEO this past weekend and as you can see during my tenure, I have sold a very small amount of number of shares during that seven years. I also own more than double as many shares I am required to hold under the Company stock ownership guidelines.

All of that to say is that obviously I am meaningfully invested in the long-term performance of our Company and I am focused on positioning the Company to create shareholder value over the long term. But I want to be very clear on this next part. My voluntary decision, as part of our corporate restructuring effort, to forfeit my equity awarded in February of 2016 and ask that the Board do not award equity compensation to me in 2017, does not impact my focus on the long-term performance of CCA or change my personal optimism of the Company's long-term prospects. Instead, this decision was intended to demonstrate my personal commitment to positioning the Company for long-term success.

Our value proposition remains strong as ever. Our operational performance consistently meets or exceeds expectations of our customers and we continue to see meaningful opportunities to drive future growth for CCA. Now, I would like to turn the call over to Dave to review the other primary drivers or update our financial guidance for both 2016 and 2017. Dave?

DAVID GARFINKLE, CFO, CORRECTIONS CORPORATION OF AMERICA: Thank you, Damon, and good morning, everyone. We traditionally have issued guidance annually in February for the ensuing year when we also announce our financial results for the calendar year just ended. However, we believe providing 2017 guidance at this time, four months ahead of schedule, provides an important level of clarity for our shareholders and other interested parties on the

announcement last night that we have modified and extended our contract at the South Texas Family Residential Center.

We believe it is also important to provide our perspective on the financial impact resulting from recent announcements by the Department of Justice about declining reliance on the private sector and review by the Department of Homeland Security of its policies and practices concerning the use of private immigration detention. When we reported our second-quarter 2016 financial results we disclosed that we had been engaged by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an agency of the Department of Homeland Security, to renegotiate our contract at the South Texas Family Residential Center.

As we have previously reported, we originally entered into negotiations for our existing contract during the summer of 2014 when the country was experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis of family units crossing the border from Central America. We held those negotiations and entered into a contract not knowing what the population, precise cost structure or policies around family detention would be. In fact, since we originally entered into the contract in the fourth quarter of 2014, each of the factors has changed meaningfully.

Although legal challenges pertaining to the detention of minors and childcare licensure issues are ongoing, the facility is not being used as a detention center but is now being used as a short-term processing center whereby residents receive health screenings, identification verifications, access to legal counsel, educational and recreational services and follow certain other immigration procedures. We have worked with our partner over the past several months to identify areas where cost savings could be achieved while also meeting the unique needs of the customer, and have successfully entered into a contract reflecting a new cost structure under a new five-year term, resulting in cost savings to the government from the existing contract of almost 40% on an annual basis.

Now that we have completed the renegotiation of the contract, we are updating our 2016 guidance to reflect the terms of the renegotiated contract that become effective in November and providing our preliminary guidance for 2017. As indicated in the press release, our guidance for the third quarter of 2016 remains unchanged.

Adjusted EPS guidance for 2016 is now \$1.78 to \$1.81, while normalized FFO per share is \$2.57 to \$2.60. And AFFO per share is \$2.46 to \$2.49. Adjusted EPS guidance for 2017 is a range of \$1.35 to \$1.45. Full-year normalized FFO per share guidance is a range of \$2.11 to \$2.21. And full-year AFFO per share guidance is a range of \$2.02 to \$2.12. The adjusted amounts exclude M&A expenses and \$4 million of restructuring charges we expect to report in the third quarter of 2016 in connection with a corporate restructuring we announced on September 27.

It's important to note that while we are providing this 2017 guidance uncertainty still exists. We have three contracts with the BOP expiring over the next year, including at our 1,978-bed McRae Correctional Center expiring in November 2016. Our 1,422-bed Eden Detention Center which is part of the CAR 16 rebid expiring in April 2017. And our 2,232-bed Adams County Correctional Center expiring in July 2017.

It is impossible to predict what precisely will occur upon expiration of these contracts. The BOP has indicated that upon expiration of contracts in the private sector, they may either decline to renew them or substantially reduce their scope in a manner consistent with law and the overall decline of the BOP's inmate population.

Therefore, our guidance contemplates a range of potential outcomes associated with these contract renewals. We have not assumed the loss of all of these contracts upon expiration of the current contracting period. Neither have we assumed status quo. However, we do not expect to have to lower guidance following the announcement of the BOP CAR 16 award or as a result of the renegotiation of these contracts. These three contracts with the BOP comprise approximately 7% of our 2016 total revenue.

The per-share reductions resulting from the renegotiation of the contract at the South Texas Family Residential Center and the potential for lower contributions from our BOP contracts are partially offset by the full-year impact in 2017 of new contracts implemented during 2016 at our Trousdale Turner Correctional Center and our Red Rock Correctional Center. The fourth quarter of 2016 also reflects higher populations from immigrations and customs enforcement that we are currently experiencing compared with our prior guidance.

We believe this is further evidence of the value proposition and essential need we fulfill for ICE as well as our many other government partners. Further, we have recently seen increased activity from potential customers to utilize our idle facilities; however, our guidance does not include any new contract awards, as the timing on government actions is always difficult to predict.

Our guidance assumes the population from the State of California consistent with current levels which have been between 4,700 and 4,900 throughout 2016. Our 2017 guidance does not include any material impact that could result from the assessment of the Department of Homeland Security of its utilization of the private sector or reductions in utilization of the private sector from any of our other government partners.

As I just mentioned, we have recently seen an increase in activity from ICE, as well as from existing and potential state and local government partners, for our real estate assets and our services. Our guidance does not include any capital markets or refinancing transactions or any new M&A activity. Although we continue to pursue a number of attractive investment opportunities, particularly in the reentry space, our guidance does not include any new M&A activity because the magnitude and timing of our M&A activities are difficult to predict.

Finally, our 2017 guidance reflects approximately \$9 million of expense savings, most of which, although not all, are G&A savings resulting from the corporate restructuring and cost-reduction plan we announced on September 27. As mentioned in that announcement, the expense savings result from corporate staffing reductions and the implementation of the cost reduction plan to realign our corporate structure to more effectively serve facility operations and support the progression of CCA's business diversification strategy.

Taking into account our updated financial outlook, as well as abundant opportunities to deploy capital to create shareholder value, we are currently assessing our capital allocation and dividend policies as our cheapest source of capital is retained cash flow. As a reminder, our dividend policy is currently to peg our dividend to approximately 80% of AFFO, which for 2017 translates into a normalized FFO payout ratio of about 77% at the midpoint, or \$1.66. Based on current estimates, the minimum AFFO payout ratio to maintain requalification status would be approximately 68% or 65% of normalized FFO, or \$1.40 per share.

We will review our capital allocation and dividend policies with our Board of Directors during the fourth quarter. A press release is expected to be issued shortly after our next Board meeting scheduled in December, announcing the amount of the next quarterly dividend that would be paid in January, along with any changes to our dividend policy.

With respect to our balance sheet, our leverage is expected to range between 3.6 times and 3.8 times throughout 2017. The covenants under our credit agreement include a total leverage of five times. At the highest leverage assumed in guidance, we would have \$460 million of debt cushion or \$90 million of EBITDA cushion under this covenant.

As a reminder, we have no debt maturities until April 2020. We have always managed our balance sheet conservatively relative to other companies in the industry, as well as to other REITS in general. We intend to continue to manage our balance sheet in a prudent manner. I will now turn the call back over to the operator to open up the lines for questions.

Questions and Answers

DAVID GARFINKLE: OPERATOR: (Operator Instructions)

Tobey Sommer, SunTrust.

KWAN KIM, ANALYST, SUNTRUST: Hi. This is actually Kwan Kim on for Tobey. Thank you for taking my questions. First, could you give us more color on the size of the ICE contract and the impact of the renegotiation? How should we think about the impact to the top line and EBITDA and if you could please talk about the implement of contributors to income statements of 2017 over 2016.

DAMON HININGER: Sure. I will try to take that and I probably won't answer your question fully but as I mentioned in my comments we negotiated cost savings to ICE of about 40% on an annual basis. You take our total revenue, reduce it by 40% for this modified contract. We generally don't get into contract specific economics for competitive and other reasons although we have disclosed more about this specific contract because of its materiality and unique risks. We issued guidance for 2017 to provide the clarity we believe is most appropriate for investors and other interested parties although the contract is not as material as it was; it continues to have unique risks and accordingly will continue to provide a similar level of disclosure in our earnings releases and public disclosures.

KWAN KIM: Other than ICE contract renegotiation and the BOP contract loss assumption, what are other headwinds that are embedded in your outlook for 2017 and 2016?

DAVID GARFINKLE: As I mentioned we are not assuming the status quo for the BOP. We've got three contracts renewing over the next year through July. We are not assuming a loss of all of those contracts. As I mentioned in my comments we don't expect to have to lower guidance as a result of CAR 16 award or following the renegotiations of any of these contracts.

So those are probably the biggest headwinds are the BOP. As I mentioned we are assuming a stable population from California of 4,700 to 4,900. We're comfortable with that sitting here today but that's -- I know at least one analyst is out there with risks associated with that California population but based on what Damon had indicated in his comments we are comfortable with that population throughout 2017.

KWAN KIM: Thank you. The press release highlights opportunities to deploy capital. Do you expect anything in the near term? Are most prospective customers waiting for the attention in the press to dissipate before engaging with the private

operators? Are you having as many conversations as you did six months ago?

DAVID GARFINKLE: I would say more, actually. As I mentioned in my comments we have seen an increase in activity from both ICE. They continue to have a higher numbers of people crossing the southern border. We are having increased conversations with various states to utilize our idle capacity none of which is baked into our financial guidance. So I would say that activity has increased.

KWAN KIM: Thank you very much.

OPERATOR: Ryan Meliker, Canaccord Genuity.

RYAN MELIKER, ANALYST, CANACCORD GENUITY: Good morning guys. Thanks for my questions. First of all congratulations on getting this done. I'm sure it was not a simple process to renegotiate with ICE. Following up on the previous question, I'm not sure if you guys are going to answer this but I am going to ask it anyway.

Your previous 2016 guidance at the midpoint was about \$417 million in EBITDA and your initiated 2017 guidance at the midpoint is about \$370 million. So that's a \$47 million decline. I'm just wondering if you're willing to provide that bridge in what composes that \$47 million. There is obviously the STFRC, the restructuring, same-store revenues, Redrocks, Trousdale, as well as the BOP impact that you guys have built-in but can you quantify some of those things or are you not willing to do that this time?

DAMON HININGER: I think we are not willing to do that at this time but you did hit on all of them. You've got the South Texas deterioration, you've got assumptions around the BOP headwinds. Trousdale. On the other hand you have Trousdale and Redrock increasing EBITDA contributions in 2017. The restructuring of the \$9 million in savings from the restructuring are also included in that guidance. There are a number as you can imagine at this point, we are four months ahead of when we normally give guidance so there are a number of other puts and takes that are much smaller than that but those are certainly the biggest movements between 2016 and 2017.

RYAN MELIKER: Okay. That's helpful.

DAMON HININGER: Just one point of clarification on my prior comment. We announced the reduction in the South Texas is 40% of revenue on the South Texas contract not --

RYAN MELIKER: Not on the entire company. That would be really bad. (laughter) Second question and you guys gave us some good color as to why you feel confident that Prop 57 won't have a lot of impact to you guys in 2017. Can you give us an idea if Prop 57 passes, which I know is and if right now, what you think the potential annual EBITDA risk is from that and I know it won't necessarily show up in 2017 but as we look out at the overall annual risk.

DAMON HININGER: Good morning, Ryan, this is Damon and a couple answers there. First let me at a high level talk about the population both today and then what we see forecasted from California the next few years. Today we have seen year to date, this is basically through October, California's in-state populations increased by about 1,400 inmates. That's notable that they have seen a little bit of an increase during the course of this year. Also their most recent forecast shows them growing by about 3,000 inmates from now until 2020.

With that, if you go back to Prop 57, what the LAO is saying, as I said earlier, they're showing -- they didn't put a number to it actual in population but really just put a dollar amount saying, we think tens of millions of dollars. With a \$7 billion plus budget for California as it relates to their corrections department that's a pretty small number. As we think about a 3,000 increase over the next three years, 1,300 bed increase this year, we think that's going to be a pretty modest impact for 2017 and beyond.

RYAN MELIKER: I guess the offset would be if they're able to reduce the sentencing guidelines and reduce those numbers and then with the idea of bringing prisoners back in state from out-of-state which is my understanding of what they're trying to do and it sounds like that would have a direct impact on you guys. Am I missing something?

DAMON HININGER: I think the key thing you got to remember though is that our population out-of-state is a high custody population. It's medium security up to high-security. Prop 57, which again they are saying is, they think its going to be a modest impact and the modest impact really will be for low security or minimum-security inmates nonviolent offenders. It's also I think, important to draw that distinction of what we hold and our capacity is very valuable to them because they are very limited on high custody celled capacity in state for this type of population.

RYAN MELIKER: Got you. So it sounds like you guys don't attribute any medium-term risk to Prop 57 or at least minimal medium-term risk to Prop 57 in 2017 and beyond because of the types of prisoners your housing. Is that fair?

DAVID GARFINKLE: That's correct.

RYAN MELIKER: Okay. That's great to hear. The last question -- the other question I have was just can we talk a little bit about the dividend? I understand why you guys would not this necessarily address the dividend today given that the board has yet to me coupled with some of the uncertainty that will likely get resolved whether it be Prop 57 or presidential election or the ICE review at the end of November; but how do you expect the board to be thinking about the dividend? I'm assuming it's something along the lines of trying to maintain that 80% FFO payout ratio on a run rate basis. Is that a safe assessment?

DAVID GARFINKLE: That's a good question, Ryan. I guess I would say our current policy is 80% of AFFO. As I mentioned in my comments that translates into about \$1.66 at the midpoint. I mentioned the low end of that range is what we would be required to pay out to maintain requalification status and obviously we expect to do that. That number is around \$1.40. There's some puts and takes with how you project taxable income but real rough number sets around \$1.40. We do see abundant opportunities to create shareholder value through the deployment of capital. So this is ultimately a board decision but these are the discussions we are having with our board on what is that right level of capital to retain, as retained cash flow is the cheapest source of capital we're going to avail ourselves and with abundant opportunities to deploy capital, what is the proper payout ratio.

Those are the conversations we will be having and have already begun having with our Board of Directors and fortunately we have until December to make that decision or for them to make that decision and for us to make a formal recommendation to them; and with a number of opportunities in the pipeline we will have better visibility by December.

RYAN MELIKER: Got you. So it sounds like there is a possibility that you would cut the dividend to a payout ratio that's lower than the historical 80% target to use the excess cash flow for alternative means whether that be new investment opportunities. Would you also look at eventually paying down debt or buying back stock?

DAVID GARFINKLE: Yes. All those are possibilities and that's a correct assessment.

DAMON HININGER: Those are conversations in addition to those other ways to deploy capital those are conversations we have ongoing with the board currently as we go into the fall and then head up to that December board meeting.

RYAN MELIKER: Okay great. That's really helpful color and thanks for taking all my questions and congratulations on getting this done. It certainly looks pretty good. I will yield to the next questioner. Thanks.

DAMON HININGER: Thank you, Ryan.

OPERATOR: Kevin McClure, Wells Fargo Securities.

KEVIN MCCLURE, ANALYST, WELLS FARGO SECURITIES: Good morning. Thanks for taking my question. Wanted to drill down a little bit into the ICE renewal; says a 60-day notice termination. Is that for convenience, is that for non appropriation of funds, is that both? Are both those clauses still available in the contract?

DAMON HININGER: Yes. Both. Either for convenience or non appropriation of funds. They could terminate within 60 days.

KEVIN MCCLURE: Okay. And that seems like that's for convenience clause was shortened from 90 to 60 days. Is that true?

DAMON HININGER: That's right. It was. It was an important part of their negotiations but as with most of our ICE contracts most of our ICE contracts have termination with 60 days notice.

DAVID GARFINKLE: The appropriation was in the previous version too.

KEVIN MCCLURE: Got it. Trying to gauge I guess the level of support from DHS, I guess I'm a little surprised that they - that ICE would agree to this extension while they had -- that DHS had an ongoing review. You can view that as positive signal for how the review will go but I'm wondering how those discussions went with ICE and with DHS as you are negotiating this extension.

DAMON HININGER: This is Damon and I appreciate your question. I would say, yes, I think that's notable with this ongoing review that here we are the 18th of October and we are announcing this extension of the contract and tweaking the scope to meet the normalized mission of the facility.

As I also said in my prepared remarks, I got the really nice opportunity to meet with the subcommittee last week and got to talk a lot about the partnership we've had with ICE over the 30 plus years and the track record and the performance we have had and also I would say the really, really innovative and flexible solutions for ICE over the years. I think to their credit subcommittee is taking their time. They are doing a review. We think it's likely they are going to tour our facilities and we think we got a great, great story to show what we've done historically. And they will come to the same

conclusion that we've been a really good tool for ICE for their overall needs and kind of merging issues that happened both short-term and long-term.

KEVIN MCCLURE: Got it. Thanks and not to beat a dead horse too much about California but modest impact in your guidance for passage of Prop 57. What do you think the likelihood is that California then embarks on another reclassification scheme similar to what they did a year or two ago that could potentially reduce the level of offense. It seems like if all the low hanging fruit has already been plucked but just trying to get a sense for how many people could be reclassified to a lower category.

DAMON HININGER: It's always dangerous to get in the business of speculating of what they could do additionally. I think our view is generally that they have done a lot with both the reclass and realignment of populations from state facilities down to local facilities the last couple of years. Some of these tweaks they've done in their system are relative to shortening the sentences or allowing people that are nonviolent offenders to be released early.

I think the only other thing I have to say is that I can't say what's around the corner. But here we are at the end of the second term of Governor Brown so I don't think there's anything else out there. To your point, the low hanging fruit I think California probably would say that probably is correct there's probably not a lot more that they can do.

The only other thing if they go back to Prop 57 because I know it's been a key question for a lot of our analysts, is again, Governor Brown when this came about and he's been a proponent for it and I think most people think it's probably going to pass in November. They have gotten a lot of pressure from the federal courts to make sure that some of things they have put in place in a kind of temporary and emergency fashion that those are durable and sustainable long-term after federal court oversight is pulled away which I alluded to in my comments. So, his view on this is if Prop 57 does pass there really is making something more durable that they already do today that they are allowed to do under this federal court order. That's, I think, kind of my general views on California for the foreseeable future.

KEVIN MCCLURE: Got it. Thank you for that. Trying to get a sense for free cash flow in 2017 assuming you resize dividend by pare back in the halfway house space acquisitions of halfway houses. You could generate a fair amount of free cash and you have mentioned buying back stock versus paying down some debt. As far as debt reduction is concerned would you pay down your line or would you consider buying back bonds in the open market?

DAMON HININGER: We would be paying down the line rather than repurchasing bonds in the open market. That's not top of mind in terms of paying down debt with plenty of opportunities to deploy capital. Short-term you'd pay down debt and pay down the line as you have got excess cash flow as you are waiting to deploy that capital for a development project or an acquisition or stock repurchase. But probably wouldn't be looking at repurchasing the outstanding bonds.

KEVIN MCCLURE: One final one for me and I really appreciate the time. We are less than 45 days for the McRae renewal and I know you guys said there are number of different outcomes that are embedded in guidance. Since that is right in front of us, what's your sense? Do you assume a renewal with some modified terms?

DAMON HININGER: I will say we are -- you are right on the timing and so in the coming days and weeks we hope to provide some clarity to the market. I guess one thing I would point to is Geo's recent announcement on their extension for D. Ray James also in the state of Georgia and as you are probably well aware there was a tweak in the -- both the fixed payment and also the per day rate as we understand it as reported to the press with that extension. So we think that's notable. That's the first extension of any of these contracts since all the noise that we had back in August. I guess I would point to that as a pretty notable milestone here in the last 30 days.

KEVIN MCCLURE: Got it. Thanks for the time.

OPERATOR: Eleni Kessler, Jefferies.

RYAN CARY, ANALYST, JEFFERIES: Hi guys. This is Ryan on for Eleni. Thank you for the time and real quick you delivered a 40% of cost savings to ICE. What percentage of these cost savings were delivered by change in scope and declines in payments to your third-party lessor?

DAVID GARFINKLE: I don't want to get into the specific economics of the contract or the negotiations on what scope we reduced other than to say, as Damon mentioned in his comments, there was a staffing reduction which was hard to do. Those people have performed so exceptional at the facility and it was hard to manage through that process but that's where most of the cost savings came from.

RYAN CARY: Okay. Fair enough. Real quick is this 40% indicative of cost savings to be expected to deliver with the other ICE renegotiations? Not sure if you can comment on that or not.

DAMON HININGER: This is Damon. What I would say, the facility in South Texas is very unique as you know. And when we got that contract back in 2014 where they were trying to deal with a real crisis on the Southwest border, when

we got the call which we are grateful that we did receive that call, we had to leverage capacity within 90 days; so it's almost like an effort if you had a natural disaster or hurricane and we had to get something up and running very, very quickly. Both the real estate and the services.

The question at the time was is this going to be a long-term need based on the activity on the border. So it was clear to us in May and June when ICE engaged us that they wanted to continue with this solution but we could kind of graduate to a normalized environment. Contrast that to the other ICE facilities, they really were not started that way. Other ICE facilities we had more time, more lead time to work with ICE relative to the solution there and then with that ramp up and start a operation and also build the real estate in a more, what I think, kind of typical or normal fashion.

RYAN CARY: Okay. Great. Thank you. I really appreciate the time.

OPERATOR: Rob LaQuaglia with Wells Fargo.

ROB LAQUAGLIA, ANALYST, WELLS FARGO: Thanks guys. Most of my questions have been answered. Maybe just one here. Is there any sense on the timing of news on the Houston Processing Center renewal?

DAMON HININGER: Rob this is Damon. I don't have any kind of new information. We do believe that it could potentially be by the end of this year so the end of 2016 calendar year. But that's the latest that we've heard on that front.

ROB LAQUAGLIA: Okay. Thank you.

OPERATOR: [Yeye Bonyes], Philadelphia Financial.

UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT, ANALYST: Hey, guys. It is actually Jordan and Yeye. We both have questions. My question is, you assume the loss of three facilities for the BOP, you have not assumed those facilities get taken over and utilized by other states. Are any of those three facilities in states where you already have a business relationship?

DAVID GARFINKLE: Well, we did not say that we were assuming those three facilities become idle. There is a range of assumptions around what will happen upon when those contracts are up for renewal and I will repeat that we have not assumed the loss of all these contracts upon the expiration of the current contracting period neither have we assumed the status quo. However we don't expect to lower guidance following the announcement of the BOP CAR 16 award or as a result of the renegotiations of these contracts.

We did idle the Cibola Facility which we had previously announced that contract expired in September. We do have a current customer in New Mexico and are speaking with them and a couple customers for the utilization of that facility.

UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: So of the three BOP contracts that expire you're not assuming the BOP terminates in completion of that contract, correct?

DAVID GARFINKLE: That's correct. We have not assumed that they are going to terminate all three of those contracts. There's a range of assumptions that are built into our guidance so it's impossible to tell what exactly will happen. As Damon just mentioned though the D. Ray facility from Geo was just renewed. Our McRae contract is the first one up for renewal. And we are in discussions with the BOP for that renewal currently.

UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: And are any of those three facilities in states where you currently have a state relationship?

DAVID GARFINKLE: All of them are.

UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: All of them are. So there's at least the potential that even if you lost completely each individually of those three contracts there's a possibility that those states could come in and have, since every state but New Mexico is basically overcrowded, could take over those facilities?

DAVID GARFINKLE: That's a possibility. Georgia is where McRae is, Natchez, Mississippi is where Adams is and we don't have a direct relationship with Mississippi but we do have other operations in Mississippi and the of course Eden, Texas we do have a relationship with the state of Texas and Dave talked earlier about Cibalo being in New Mexico.

OPERATOR: [Any follow-up, Yeye]?

YEYE BONYES, ANALYST, PHILADELPHIA FINANCIAL: Yes. Sure. I know you mentioned about CAR 16 award, you are now going to change the guidance. I'm just curious, there are estimates that maybe Geo Big Spring might get both of the allotment or do you think you might possibly get at least one of the allotment? How should we think about that?

DAVID GARFINKLE: It would be hard for us and really not appropriate to speculate exactly how we think the Bureau is

going to award. As Dave said we really just try to put a range of assumptions in with the BOP business and that the thing that we wanted to convey clearly is that we would not have to reduce guidance based on the outcome of CAR 16.

YEYE BONYES: Meaning you are assuming you are not losing that CAR 16 reward? Is that -- using the current guidance?

DAVID GARFINKLE: No. We just said we did not expect to have to revise guidance based on the outcome of that CAR 16 award or based on the outcome of any of our renegotiations for the other contracts with the BOP. And that's about all we can say.

UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Can I go on the positive side without mentioning names or states can you say approximately how many states you are in the request for proposals for contracts at this point that are not assumed on the positive side of your numbers for 2017?

DAVID GARFINKLE: Yes. The majority of discussions we're having with the state business are not through a procurement process RFP but I would say right now we have got about half a dozen states that have expressed interest on either solutions in state or more notably capacity that we've got available within our system.

UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Okay. Thank you.

YEYE BONYES: Thank you.

OPERATOR: Michael Kodesch, Canaccord.

MICHAEL KODESCH, ANALYST, CANACCORD GENUITY: Thanks for taking my question guys. I just kind of have a follow-up on the STFRC contract here. Just with regards to the 60-day termination I just want to confirm that that means from November 1, 2016, that that option would be -- ICE could use that option?

DAVID GARFINKLE: They can use it immediately if they wanted to.

MICHAEL KODESCH: Okay. And then is there any termination payment from either ICE to see CXW or CXW to the lessor upon the 60-day termination?

DAVID GARFINKLE: Yes. We would have a payment of \$10 million to the lessor if it were terminated today.

MICHAEL KODESCH: Okay. But there would be no ICE CXW?

DAVID GARFINKLE: Correct.

MICHAEL KODESCH: Okay. And then did the old contract have this provision at all?

DAVID GARFINKLE: Which contract -- the -- there were --

MICHAEL KODESCH: I am sorry, the old STFRC contract. The previous one that was in place.

DAVID GARFINKLE: There were no provisions in the other contract with ICE where they would provide a payment to us in the event of a termination. We did have certain guarantees to a number of vendors in the event that the contract was terminated within the four-year period. Most of those guarantees have been eliminated through the passage of time now.

MICHAEL KODESCH: Okay. That's super helpful. Then just one final one. Is there any sort of occupancy trigger on the facility that would put the contract in question? Was that discussed at all with ICE?

DAVID GARFINKLE: No. It's a lower -- it's very much like the previous contract. The structure is very much like the previous contract where there is a fixed monthly payment not dependent on occupancy.

MICHAEL KODESCH: Okay. All very, very helpful color. Thanks again guys and congratulations on getting that done.

DAVID GARFINKLE: Thanks so much.

OPERATOR: It does appear we have no further questions. I will return the floor to our presenters for any closing remarks.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) HININGER: Thank you very much for participating in our call today. I know we pulled it together on very short notice but appreciate you all participating and I appreciate all the questions. We will be talking to you only in a couple

weeks. We will have our third-quarter earnings call here in early November so look forward to giving you a report on third quarter and the rest of 2016. So have a great rest of your day. Thank you.

OPERATOR: This will conclude today's program. Thanks for your participation. You may now disconnect and have a great day.

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GROVE CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING HEROIN AND MONEY LAUNDERING

10/18/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the United States Attorney's Office Southern District of Ohio:

Roman Hernandez, 39, of Grove City, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to possession with the intent to distribute heroin and to one count of money laundering. The plea agreement calls for a total custodial sentence of between 51 and 63 months' imprisonment, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

Benjamin C. Glassman, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office, Marlon V. Miller, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Franklin County Sheriff Zach Scott and other members of Central Ohio HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Drug Task Force announced the guilty plea entered before Senior U.S. District Judge James L. Graham. The HIDTA Task Force is operated as part of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission.

According to court documents, this joint investigation revealed through surveillance, financial records, cooperating witnesses, and other investigative techniques, that between March 2013 and April 2013 Hernandez was involved in the sale of heroin.

On April 9, 2013 a search warrant was executed at 3260 Norwood Street, Columbus, Ohio. This was a home being rented by Hernandez and his girlfriend.

Before the search warrant was executed, Hernandez was observed driving away from the residence in his Cadillac Escalade. The vehicle was stopped by law enforcement and Hernandez admitted that between January 2013 and April 9, 2013 he had possessed with intent to distribute and distributed heroin. He acknowledged that proceeds from the sale of heroin would be located at his residence at 3260 Norwood Street, Columbus, Ohio.

During the course of the search warrant investigators seized in excess of \$55,000 in U.S. currency. Investigators also found financial records and closing documents where Hernandez and his girlfriend had purchased a piece of real property located at 4870 Manitoba Road, Columbus, Ohio on April 2, 2013 for \$70,000. The property had been purchased with cash.

Hernandez's portion of the purchase price was \$26,000. The funds had been withdrawn from his checking account in

the form of a cashier's check. The investigation documented that the funds used by Hernandez to purchase the property at 4870 Manitoba Road were proceeds he derived from sale of narcotics.

In addition, Hernandez agreed to forfeit a Cobra, Model M-11, 9mm handgun and a Sig Sauer, Model P250, 9mm handgun.

"The harm inflicted by heroin is matched only by the profit potential for those who sell it. Today's guilty plea is the culmination of a lengthy effort in which IRS-CI worked with its law enforcement partners to disrupt the flow of money -- the lifeblood that allows drug dealers to proliferate," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "This is an important victory for the citizens of Central Ohio. This individual not only fueled the drug problem in Central Ohio, but he supported addiction in several parts of the country."

U.S. Attorney Glassman commended the investigation of this case by the Central Ohio HIDTA Task Force, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Prichard, who is prosecuting the case.

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CROSS COUNTRY OPERATION X RECOVERS 82 CHILDREN FROM BEING TRAFFICKED FOR SEX

10/18/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the FBI:

Local Operation Recovers Nine Children, Arrests 11 Traffickers

The FBI's Rocky Mountain Innocence Lost Task Force (RMILTF) and other local law enforcement partners went after sex traffickers who put children up for sale in Colorado and Wyoming last week, arresting 11 pimps and 32 customers and recovering nine children.

Child sex traffickers exploit our kids and crush their hopes, their self-esteem, and their futures. They're never the same after being trafficked. Our most important job is to recover them and ensure they have resources moving forward, said FBI Acting Special Agent in Charge Calvin Shivers. Thanks to our many partners for their collaborative efforts last week, because of their commitment to this operation, many children now have a chance for a better life.

The RMILTF launched an intensive, three-day effort last week at hotels, trucks stops, on street corners and on social media apps to target the traffickers. The youngest child recovered was 14 years old. This effort was in coordination with the FBI's 10th annual nationwide operation targeting child sex traffickers, known as Operation Cross Country.

In one case, two pimps were caught driving two females, one a juvenile and one an adult, across the Midwest, selling them for sex along the way. When they arrived in Denver, the two victims were advertised on a sex website. Police answered the ad instead of Johns. The men were arrested for human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude.

Victim advocates provided the juveniles with food, clothing, shelter, smf medical assistance and connected them with needed resources, such as counseling.

The satisfaction which today we jointly feel for jobs well done is greatly tempered by the realization that the hard work of ending human trafficking has only begun. Our greatest challenges lie ahead. Tomorrow's prostitutes and sexual victims are today's boys and girls, said 18th Judicial District Attorney George H. Brauchler. It is for them and their better futures that we will continue to invest time, effort, and resources. To those who view the young and fragile as commodities who seek to profit from sacrificing their innocence and bodies to satisfy the sexual appetites of the lascivious and twisted, we say only this: Stop immediately. We are here, and we are coming for you.

This year, the RMILTF noticed an increase in the use of dating, meeting, and "hook-up" social media apps to exploit and prostitute children. The FBI urges parents to know what your kids are doing online. You can get tips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website and its NetSmartz411 program.

Tragically, it's estimated as many as 2,000 youth in Colorado and Wyoming are exploited sexually every year.

This task force approach is the only effective way to save children and put these despicable criminals behind bars, said Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey. We know we can make a difference when we put our resources together.

The Colorado and Wyoming operation ranked second in the nation for child recoveries during this year's Operation Cross Country. (Milwaukee took 11 children off the streets, compared to Colorado and Wyoming, which rescued nine.) Across the two states, more than 280 law enforcement personnel ran 21 stings.

The Denver Police Department, along with the other law enforcement agencies who participated in Operation Cross Country, are encouraged about the number of children recovered during the operation, but saddened that there are still many out there being victimized, said Denver Police Chief Robert C. White. We must continue our efforts to bring home others who are victims of these horrible crimes and arrest those who commit them.

The RMILTF includes the FBI Denver Division, the Aurora and Denver Police Departments, the Arapahoe and Douglas County Sheriff's Offices, the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, and the Colorado State Patrol. Several other local law enforcement agencies participated in this year's Operation Cross Country.

In 2015, the crackdown ran for six days, and the RMILTF and their law enforcement partners recovered 20 children from sex trafficking, which were the most recoveries in the nation. Nationwide in 2015, 149 underage victims were recovered, and 153 pimps were arrested.

From January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015, the RMILTF arrested 102 people for trafficking and/or pimping-related offenses and 58 people for patronizing a prostituted child and/or sex assault on a child. In all, the RMILTF and other local law enforcement partners have recovered 293 juveniles (2012: 49, 2013: 61, 2014: 94, 2015: 89).

This year's nationwide operation ran October 13 to 15. For the first time, the operation took place in several countries around the world, including Cambodia, Canada, the Philippines, and Thailand. It was conducted by the FBI and 500 law enforcement partners. The operation recovered 82 underage trafficking victims and 239 pimps. Operation Cross Country X is the largest ever in the history of the initiative, with 55 FBI field offices and 71 state and local task forces taking part in the operation in 106 cities across America.

Operation Cross Country aims to shine a spotlight into the darkest corners of our society that seeks to prey on the most vulnerable of our population, said FBI Director Comey. As part of this effort, we are not only looking to root out those who engage in the trafficking of minors, but, through our Office of Victim Assistance, we offer a lifeline to minors to help them escape a from a virtual prison no person ever deserves.

The average age that someone gets into the sex trade is 13. Once they are in that world, statistics show they rarely get out. Traffickers can make \$100,000 per year on each child. The pimps coerce, beat, and threaten them to stay in the sex trade. After entering the sex trade, the life expectancy of a prostitute is just seven years.

Operation Cross Country X is part of the FBI's Innocence Lost Initiative, which began in 2003. These teams work all year to recover minor trafficking victims. Since the inception of the program, there have been more than 6100 child identifications and locations.

Press conference participants:

Calvin Shivers, acting special agent in charge FBI, Denver Division

Ted Mink, deputy director, Colorado Bureau of Investigation

George Brauchler, 18th Judicial District Attorney

Peter Weir, 1st Judicial District Attorney

Daniel Steele, Denver Police Department sergeant and RMILTF officer

Thirty-eight law enforcement agencies participated in this year's Operation Cross Country X with the Rocky Mountain Innocence Lost Task Force including:

Adams County District Attorney

Alamosa Police Department

Alamosa Sheriff's Office

Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office

Arvada Police Department

Aurora Police Department

Boulder Police Department

Boulder County Sheriff's Office

Casper Police Department

Cheyenne Police Department

Colorado Bureau of Investigation

Colorado Springs Police Department

Colorado Springs Legal Parole Office

Colorado State Patrol

Commerce City Police Departmentthe best advice i ever heard was wait at least a year, because you never know what they might be into in those months you haven't dated them yet. maybe they're really crazy during NFL season.

Denver Police Department

Douglas County Sheriff's Office

Eighteenth Judicial District Attorney's Office

Evans Police Department

Federal Bureau of Investigation

First Judicial District Attorney's Office

Fruita Police Department

Ft. Collins Police Department

Grand Junction Police Department

Greeley Police Department

Homeland Security Investigations

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Johnstown Police Department

Lakewood Police Department

Larimer County District Attorney's Office

Longmont Police Department

Mesa County Sheriff's Office

Ninth Judicial District Office

Pueblo Police Department

Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

Twentieth Judicial District Attorney's Office

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Westminster Police Department

Wheat Ridge Police Department

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GROVE CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING HEROIN AND MONEY LAUNDERING

10/18/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the United States Attorney's Office Southern District of Ohio:

Roman Hernandez, 39, of Grove City, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to possession with the intent to distribute heroin and to one count of money laundering. The plea agreement calls for a total custodial sentence of between 51 and 63 months' imprisonment, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

Benjamin C. Glassman, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office, Marlon V. Miller, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Franklin County Sheriff Zach Scott and other members of Central Ohio HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Drug Task Force announced the guilty plea entered before Senior U.S. District Judge James L. Graham. The HIDTA Task Force is operated as part of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission.

According to court documents, this joint investigation revealed through surveillance, financial records, cooperating witnesses, and other investigative techniques, that between March 2013 and April 2013 Hernandez was involved in the sale of heroin.

On April 9, 2013 a search warrant was executed at 3260 Norwood Street, Columbus, Ohio. This was a home being rented by Hernandez and his girlfriend.

Before the search warrant was executed, Hernandez was observed driving away from the residence in his Cadillac Escalade. The vehicle was stopped by law enforcement and Hernandez admitted that between January 2013 and April 9, 2013 he had possessed with intent to distribute and distributed heroin. He acknowledged that proceeds from the sale of heroin would be located at his residence at 3260 Norwood Street, Columbus, Ohio.

During the course of the search warrant investigators seized in excess of \$55,000 in U.S. currency. Investigators also found financial records and closing documents where Hernandez and his girlfriend had purchased a piece of real property located at 4870 Manitoba Road, Columbus, Ohio on April 2, 2013 for \$70,000. The property had been purchased with cash.

Hernandez's portion of the purchase price was \$26,000. The funds had been withdrawn from his checking account in the form of a cashier's check. The investigation documented that the funds used by Hernandez to purchase the property at 4870 Manitoba Road were proceeds he derived from sale of narcotics.

In addition, Hernandez agreed to forfeit a Cobra, Model M-11, 9mm handgun and a Sig Sauer, Model P250, 9mm handgun.

"The harm inflicted by heroin is matched only by the profit potential for those who sell it. Today's guilty plea is the culmination of a lengthy effort in which IRS-CI worked with its law enforcement partners to disrupt the flow of money -- the lifeblood that allows drug dealers to proliferate," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "This is an important victory for the citizens of Central Ohio. This individual not only fueled the drug problem in Central Ohio, but he supported addiction in several parts of the country."

U.S. Attorney Glassman commended the investigation of this case by the Central Ohio HIDTA Task Force, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Prichard, who is prosecuting the case.

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MORENO VALLEY MAN SENTENCED TO NEARLY 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ADVERTISING, DISTRIBUTING, AND POSSESSING PORNOGRAPHIC IMAGES OF TODDLERS AND INFANTS IN ONLINE CHATROOM

10/18/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California:

A Moreno Valley man has been sentenced to nearly two decades in federal prison for advertising child pornography in a members-only online chatroom for people with a sexual interest in infants and toddlers.

Angelo Harper Jr., 21, was sentenced on Monday to 235 months in prison and lifetime supervised release by United States District Judge R. Gary Klausner. Harper was convicted of advertising child pornography after a trial in July. Harper also pleaded guilty in July to distributing child pornography and possession of child pornography.

The evidence presented at trial showed that Harper used the Kik Messenger social media platform to access a chatroom for those interested in nepiophilia, which is a sexual interest in infants and toddlers. Last year, an agent with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations entered the chatroom using an undercover Kik account, and accessed several postings about child pornography made by an individual later identified as Harper which included images depicting child pornography and a link to an explicit video. At one point, Harper wrote: "I have tons of pics and vids of little boys and girls. Pm me for chat and trade of kids under 6 [winking face emoji]."

"Pedophiles who use technology to share child pornography re-victimize each child and perpetuate the market for this criminal behavior," said United States Attorney Eileen M. Decker. "This case highlights the fact that defendants like this one will not escape prosecution by hiding in the dark corners of the Internet."

As a result of the investigation, HSI agents seized numerous digital devices from Harper that contained child pornography, and Harper admitted to using Kik to transmit child pornography. In total federal agents seized approximately 9,000 images of child pornography and over 500 videos.

"This lengthy sentence should serve as a sobering warning about the consequences facing those who use the internet to traffic in child pornography and sexually exploit their innocent, helpless victims," said Edward Owens, acting special agent in charge for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Los Angeles. "The perversion of the perpetrators involved in these egregious crimes is frankly appalling and must be punished to the fullest extent of the law."

The investigation into Harper was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys George E. Pence and A. Carley Palmer of the General Crimes Section.

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OWNER OF FOUR LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND TWO OTHERS CHARGED IN CONSPIRACY TO HARBOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

10/18/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York:

U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Sergio Ramses Mucino, 42, Jose Sanchez-Ocampo, 37, and Marguin Sanchez, 22, all of Buffalo, NY, were charged by criminal complaint with conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and \$250,000 fine.

"This office will continue to ensure that all employers play by the same set of rules regarding the operation of their business," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "This is particularly true in the restaurant industry, where health, safety, and financial rules apply to protect the public and staff alike."

"Building and supporting a business through the intentional use of people not lawfully authorized to work here is a model that HSI will not tolerate," said Kevin Sbley, acting Special Agent in charge of HSI Buffalo. "These alleged practices not only put competitors at an economic disadvantage, they often come at the peril of the workers."

In addition, Juan Carlos Bernal-Lujano, 51, and Miguel Sanchez-Ocampo, 30, were charged with illegal re-entry after a felony conviction. Abel Cruz-Martinez, 46, Aida Ramirez-Arellano, 23, Alejandro Valadez-Leon, 47, and Aracelli Lopez-Martinez, 33, were also charged with illegal re-entry.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian J. Counihan, who is handling the case, stated that according to the complaint, Mucino, with the assistance of Sanchez-Ocampo and Sanchez, operates four restaurants in the City of Buffalo, Town of Cheektowaga and Village of Kenmore. The restaurants, where Mucino allegedly employs multiple unauthorized individuals, include Don Tequila on Allen Street in Buffalo, El Agave on Union Road in Cheektowaga, Agave on Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo, and La Divina on Delaware Avenue in Kenmore.

In March 2016, Immigration and Customs Enforcement received information that Mucino made all decisions regarding

hiring and employee remuneration. The investigation further revealed that a majority of the workforce at Mucino's restaurants are undocumented employees who are paid weekly in cash and that there are one or two legal employees per restaurant who receive payroll checks. After paying each employee in cash, each business allegedly grosses approximately \$50,000 in cash, per week, none of which is reported for state or federal taxes.

A review of four bank accounts associated with the restaurants showed that Mucino would frequently commingle payroll and monthly expenses among these accounts. Between January 1, 2014 and June 2016, Mucino issued and endorsed checks to Sanchez-Ocampo, identified as his "right hand man" totaling approximately \$278,432. And between June 27, 2015 and October 20, 2015, Mucino issued and endorsed checks to Marquin Sanchez totaling approximately \$102,476.38.

Ongoing surveillance between July 2014 and the present found 38 Hispanic individuals working at the restaurants and living in nine apartments and two houses within close proximity to the restaurants. The investigation determined that the nine apartments are being rented and paid for Mucino and Sanchez-Ocampo and the two houses were purchased by Marguin Sanchez in cash for the purpose of housing the illegal workers. The complaint further alleges the employees worked six days a week, 14 hours a day and are paid approximately \$500 to \$800 in cash, per week.

Mucino and Sanchez-Ocampo have been arrested and will make an initial appearance this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroder. Marguin Sanchez has not yet been taken into custody.

During this morning's operation, officers seized a 2008 Ford Edge and a 2016 Cadillac Escalade allegedly used to transport the workers as well as a 2009 Porsche Boxter which was purchased with the illegal restaurant proceeds.

The complaint is the result of an investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero and the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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BORDER PATROL STOPS TRACTOR-TRAILER, FINDS 30 IMMIGRANTS INSIDE

10/18/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents assigned to the Highway 86 checkpoint stopped a tractor-trailer and discovered 30 illegal immigrants hidden inside on Monday.

The incident occurred at approximately 9:15 p.m., after agents stopped a black and white tractor-trailer for an immigration check.

During a search of the trailer, agents discovered 30 illegal immigrants hidden inside. The immigrants were locked in the trailer from the outside which presented a very dangerous situation.

Agents found 30 immigrants locked inside this tractor-trailer. "These arrests highlight the importance of our checkpoints. It also speaks to the outstanding and vigilant work that Border Patrol agents do on a daily basis to keep our country safe and protect human life," said Ryan J. Scudder, Acting Chief Patrol Agent of the El Centro Sector.

The driver who is a Mexican citizen, along with the other 30 Mexican citizens will be processed and removed.

This is the second arrest of this type in the El Centro Sector this month. There were 19 arrested in a previous event. Read about it here.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

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MOTHER OF GIRL SHOT BY SMUGGLERS SHARES TESTIMONIAL

10/18/2016
States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

Smuggler's Bullet Hits 4-Year-Old Girl During Train Ambush

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) released a Spanish language testimonial video of a Salvadorian mother whose 4-year-old-daughter was shot by smugglers during a robbery as they were riding a train through Mexico to the United States.

"The train stopped and a few men boarded the train, the men then told us to get off the train. When the men saw us move... he fired his gun. We all screamed. After that my little girl said - Mom, my arm hurts," explains the young woman who, after touching her daughter's body, noticed the little girl was bleeding.

"We were begging the men for help. The men responded No, we can't help you. I had so much fear that my daughter would die." Terrified, she picked up her little girl and got back onto the train. The train conductor arrived shortly after the robbers fled and took the mother and child to a local hospital for treatment.

"They gave her oxygen. When the doctors told me the bullet hit her kidney, I didn't have any strength in me... because... seeing her laying helpless with machines attached to her. And to think all of this because I wanted to find something better."

Upon leaving the hospital, smugglers took the mother and daughter to a stash house in Mexico. According to the mother, the conditions in the house were deplorable. The house was crammed with people, many of them being young children.

As her child was suffering from the gunshot wound, no medical assistance was available to her. There were no antibiotics, no sterile dressings, no pain medication and no sympathy from those she trusted to bring her and her daughter to the United States.

"The innocent and fragile life of a little 4-year-old girl was meaningless compared to the brutality and greed of human smugglers. This heart-wrenching story is a concerning reminder of the atrocities migrants endure on their journey, and how in the obscure tunnel of human smuggling, money rules over humanity," says Jaime Ruiz CBP Testimonials national spokesperson.

The young woman and the child were rescued by the U.S. Border Patrol as they crossed into the United States. She voluntarily offered her testimony to inform other mothers about the realities of the journey.

In coordination with U.S. Department of State (DOS), the new video is part of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) Testimonial series launched on May 31, Teenage Testimonial Released on August 8 and Medical Examiner Testimonial on August 23. It is a continuation of several long ranging Spanish language public awareness campaigns CBP has launched over the last decade.

The video was produced by Joint Task Force West (JTF-W) South Texas Corridor, Rio Grande Valley Sector. JTF-W is an innovative U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) interagency integrated model that unifies all DHS border security components in the Southwest Border.

In addition to being distributed to key Spanish language news media in the United States, the testimonials are released in Central America via U.S. embassies in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The PSA testimonial series is an interagency effort to raise awareness of the atrocities, abuses, extortion and natural hazards migrants encounter in their journey.

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CBP AT LAREDO PORT OF ENTRY SEIZES \$196K IN COCAINE

10/18/2016
States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at Laredo Port of Entry recently seized a significant amount of cocaine valued at more than \$196,000 during a routine vehicle examination.

"Our frontline officers continue to maintain their vigilance and their resolute dedication to carrying out CBP's border security mission day in and day out contributed to this significant narcotics find," said Port Director Gregory Alvarez, Laredo Port of Entry.

Packages containing more than 25 pounds of cocaine seized by CBP officers at Laredo Port of EntryThe seizure occurred on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016 at Lincoln-Juarez Bridge when CBP officers referred a 1996 Buick Skylark driven by a 20-year-old-male U.S. citizen from Laredo, Texas to secondary for an intensive inspection. After conducting a thorough examination and with the assistance of a canine team, CBP officers discovered 10 packages within the vehicle containing a total of 25.44 pounds of alleged cocaine. The narcotics carry an estimated street value of \$196,180.

CBP officers seized the vehicle and narcotics. The driver was arrested and turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) special agents for further investigation.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

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CBP AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS AT ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT STOP POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING SWINE DISEASE

10/18/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at Orlando International Airport referred a recent passenger arriving from Mexico for inspection after he admitted to carrying raw beef. The officers were suspicious that the individual may also be carrying prohibited pork products as these are known for carrying Classical Swine Fever disease.

Upon questioning, the passenger insisted he was not bringing pork products. CBP agriculture specialists proceeded to X-ray the bags, revealing several anomalies. Upon opening the bags, CBP agriculture specialists discovered multiple pieces of vacuum-packed beef stuffed with rolls of pork meat.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Products Manual, Mexico is affected with Classical Swine Fever, which is one of the most economically damaging pandemic viral diseases of swine in the world because it requires the preventive slaughter of animals. In 1997-1998, an outbreak in the Netherlands involved the destruction of more than 400 swine herds.

"One of the most important of CBP missions is to protect the U.S. consumer," said CBP Orlando Area Port Director Gaetano Cordone. "It cost the Netherlands over \$2.3 billion to eradicate Classical Swine Fever disease and approximately 12 million pigs were slaughtered. The introduction of this disease into the United States would have a catastrophic impact not only for the U.S. economy, but for the consumer by way of higher prices in the marketplace. I'm very proud of the work our officers and agriculture specialists do everyday."

At the end of the inspection, CBP seized the meats and issued a monetary penalty to the passenger for failure to declare the prohibited pork products.

CBP agriculture specialists receive extensive training and experience in the biological sciences and agricultural inspection. On a typical day, they inspect almost 1 million people as well as air and sea cargo imported to the United States and intercept 4,379 prohibited meat, plant materials or animal products, including 440 insect pests nationwide.

To learn more about CBP's agriculture protection mission, visit Protecting Agriculture on the CBP website.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations in Florida include travel and trade facilitation and securing over 1,200 miles of the coastal border. Follow @CBPFlorida on Twitter for real-time updates and download CBP stock footage through the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

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TALLAHASSEE MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CRIMES

10/18/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida:

Ray Eugene Collins, 62, of Tallahassee, was convicted today of receipt, distribution, and possession of child pornography. The verdict was announced by Christopher P. Canova, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida.

At trial, the government presented evidence that, in January 2014, law enforcement officers identified a computer determined to belong to Collins that was sharing child pornography files through a peer-to-peer network. A forensic review of Collins's laptop and external hard drive revealed that Collins had downloaded dozens of videos and images of child pornography between October 2013 and January 2014.

This case resulted from investigations by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations and the Leon County Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jason S. Beaton.

Collins faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of 20 years in prison. Collins's sentencing hearing is scheduled for January 11, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. at the United States Courthouse in Tallahassee.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida is one of 94 offices that serve as the nation's principal litigators under the direction of the Attorney General.

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TWO MEN CHARGED WITH SEX TRAFFICKING OF THREE VICTIMS OPERATION CROSS COUNTRY X

10/18/2016

States News Service

The following information was released by the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri:

Tammy Dickinson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two men were charged in federal court today for the sex trafficking of three victims.

Calvin Anthony Miller, also known as "Serious," 34, and his cousin, Henry Dailey, 36, were charged with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking in a criminal complaint filed in the U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Mo. Miller and Dailey remain in federal custody pending a detention hearing on Oct. 20, 2016.

Today's complaint is the result of Operation Cross Country X, an international FBI investigation of sex trafficking in partnership with local law enforcement agencies.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the federal criminal complaint, a federal undercover agent assisted the Independence, Mo., Police Department, posing as a customer attempting to hire a prostitute for sex. On Oct. 14, 2016, the undercover agent located an online listing for an individual identified as Victim 1. The post included provocative and partially nude photos and her description and some possible acts that she was willing to do. The agent contacted Victim 1 and she agreed to meet him at a hotel.

Victim 1 provided law enforcement officers with information on Miller, who she said was her pimp, and Dailey, both of whom she said exploited commercial sex workers. Victim 1 told law enforcement officers that Miller was violent and abusive, the affidavit says.

According to the affidavit, Victim 1 located online advertisements for two additional women who had been trafficked by Miller, identified as Victim 2 and Victim 3. Victim 2, who is described in the affidavit as "a very young baby-faced girl," had recently arrived in Kansas City on a bus with Dailey, the affidavit says.

An Independence police detective located Victim 2 with Dailey at an Independence hotel. They were detained, the affidavit says, and Victim 2 told the detective that she wanted away from the group and just wanted to go home. Law enforcement officers also found Victim 3 at the hotel. She stated, "If I tell you anything he will kill me" and started crying. Victim 3 stated that she did not believe the police could provide enough security to protect her from "these guys." Victim 3 said she wanted to leave and get away from Miller.

While at the hotel, agents determined that Miller had rented two rooms on the third floor and a room on the first floor.

Agents made contact with Miller on the third floor. Miller was noncompliant with law enforcement requests, was directed to the ground, and cuffed.

Each of the victims told law enforcement officers that Miller and Dailey required them to work as prostitutes, threatening them with violence and death if they tried to leave, and took all of their money. According to the affidavit, they also said that Miller and Dailey forced them to use drugs to keep them addicted and dependent on them.

Victim 3 said Miller had broken her hip during a violent encounter in Overland Park, Kan., in June 2016. According to the affidavit, Victim 3 was treated at the hospital, and when she was released she was given six weeks' worth of pain medication. After a week, she said, Miller had used the remaining amount of her pain medication. After two weeks, Miller allegedly required her to begin working as a commercial sex worker with a broken hip, without pain medication.

According to the affidavit, Victim 3 showed federal agents the ledger where she had been keeping track of the money she had made. Victim 3 told agents that she had paid Miller approximately \$13,000 over the past month.

Victim 3 told agents that Miller had transported her from St. Louis to Kansas City, Las Vegas, and as far away as Washington state to work as a commercial sex worker. She had wanted to leave on multiple occasions, she said, but was not able to leave. Victim 3 also told agents that Miller had a Google voice account which allowed him to view and hear all text message and verbal conversations on her phone.

Dickinson cautioned that the charges contained in this complaint are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Teresa A. Moore. It was investigated by the FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Independence, Mo., Police Department.

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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF ICE HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE EL PASO WALDEMAR RODRIGUEZ FOR A SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS HEARING TITLED "THE THEFT, ILLEGAL POSSESSION, SALE, TRANSFER AND EXPORT OF TRIBAL CULTURAL I
10/18/2016
States News Service**

The following information was released by the Department of Homeland Security:

Chairman Barrasso, Vice Chairman Tester, Senator Udall, Senator Heinrich, and distinguished Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the efforts of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to protect cultural and religious items, property, art and antiquities, and mitigate their illicit trafficking both into and out of the United States.

As the largest investigative agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), ICE investigates a wide range of domestic and international activities arising from the illegal movement of people, goods, and money with a nexus to the borders of the United States. Federal customs law regarding smuggling and trafficking, as well as customs border search authority provide ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) with the capability and responsibility to take a leading role in investigating crimes involving the import and distribution of stolen or looted cultural property, and prosecuting those individuals and organizations responsible for these crimes. ICE is the lead federal investigative agency with respect to export enforcement due to its jurisdiction over the investigation of crimes related to the U.S. border. However, investigations into the export of Tribal cultural items present challenges due to limitations on existing authorities and enforcement resources. To conduct its complex investigations, ICE may collaborate with Tribal, Federal, State and local law enforcement, private institutions, and foreign governments. ICE has the ability to work directly with cultural resources practitioners to support these collaborative investigations.

ICE's Cultural Property, Art and Antiquities (CPAA) Program

ICE has established the Cultural Property, Art and Antiquities (CPAA) program to oversee efforts related to the protection of cultural property. The mission of the CPAA program is three-fold: conduct training on the preservation, protection, and investigation of cultural heritage and property; coordinate and support investigations involving the illicit trafficking of cultural property from countries around the world; and facilitate the repatriation of illicit cultural items seized as a result of HSI investigations to the artifacts' lawful owners.

Education and Training

With funding provided by the Cultural Heritage Center (CHC) within the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and support from the Smithsonian Institution, ICE continues to train law enforcement officers on the handling, investigation, and seizure of items believed to be another nation's cultural property.

Since 2007, approximately 400 special agents, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, prosecutors, and representatives of foreign law enforcement have been trained by experts in the fields of cultural property law, targeting, intelligence, archeology, and museum conservation. In recent years, part of the training was held at the National Museum of the American Indian, where participants received guided tours of exhibits by experts. Our goal is to train as many law enforcement officers as possible to broaden the base of expertise in cultural property investigations. Today, ICE is working more closely than ever with CBP to ensure the efforts of our agents and officers are fully integrated throughout the lifecycle of a case.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, the CPAA program has also been represented in multiple conferences and workshops and the program is working with several different federal government agencies to develop more training and capacity-building workshops for FY 2017.

Education is not limited to law enforcement personnel directly involved in investigations and prosecutions. In less formal settings, ICE continues to educate potential brokers and purchasers of cultural property on the importance of provenance (history of ownership) and encourages individuals to report any encounters with individuals seeking to sell merchandise to the HSI Tip Line.

Investigations

The CPAA program plays a supporting role in cultural property investigations by identifying subject matter experts to authenticate items that may have indigenous cultural and religious significance, coordinating leads with other offices, and acting as a liaison to INTERPOL and law enforcement agencies. The program supports ICE's approximately 7,000 special agents in more than 200 domestic offices throughout the United States and 63 international attache offices. While any ICE special agent may work a cultural property case at some time in his or her career, HSI New York has a team of special agents that works exclusively on cultural property cases. HSI Los Angeles has also recently established its own specialized team whose focus will include cultural property investigations.

Investigations into indigenous cultural property trafficking could result from a variety of leads, including: a direct request from Tribal leadership; CBP as a result of border searches, interdictions; foreign country notification of a sale at an auction house; the CPAA program; ICE Attaches; as well as lines of inquiry generated by a special agent. ICE enforces the cultural artifact import restrictions of bilateral agreements the United States (through DOS) has with 15 countries (Belize, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Mali, Nicaragua and Peru), as well as import restrictions for Iraq and Syria. These bilateral agreements help protect cultural property by imposing U.S. import restrictions on certain categories of archeological and/or ethnological material. Even with import restrictions in place, a single cultural property investigation can result in complex cases involving multiple domestic and international ICE offices, as well as other law enforcement agencies, and can last for years. For example, one of ICE's largest, ongoing cultural property investigations, Hidden Idols, began in 2007 and has resulted in the seizure of more than \$150 million in artifacts. In FY 2015, ICE worked 239 domestic and 102 international cultural property investigations.

Investigating Cases with a Nexus to Tribal Cultural Items

ICE enforces an extremely broad set of federal laws and regulations with jurisdiction over the investigation of crimes related to the U.S. border. While ICE is the lead investigative agency for the illegal import or export of cultural property, ICE would not typically be the lead investigatory agency for the theft and illegal transport of Tribal cultural items within the United States. For example, if customs officers were to discover that Tribal cultural items were transported into or out of the United States in violation of existing import or export law, ICE would have authority and jurisdiction to conduct an investigation.

Buyers and sellers of illicitly obtained antiquities, cultural, and religious items often do not limit themselves to one type of artifact. As a result, ICE has worked cases involving smuggled antiquities from foreign sources only to find Tribal cultural items are also part of a criminal's cache of artifacts. For example, as part of an ongoing investigation of the illicit sale of pre-Columbian artifacts, ICE discovered that Tribal cultural items were also being offered for purchase by the same seller.

In another case, an individual in the Southwest collected both Tribal and Egyptian cultural items, resulting in a case requiring involvement by ICE, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Interior. A further example of collaboration with other law enforcement agencies was an investigation involving the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. In this case, ICE worked with the other agencies to search

a residence in Arizona and seize Tribal cultural items as well as controlled substances and weapons. ICE's authorities related to the protection of Tribal cultural items also extend to intellectual property rights, such as the selling of imported goods being fraudulently marketed as Native American jewelry.

Cultural Repatriation

Cultural property investigations often result in the seizure of cultural property, which must be repatriated to its lawful owners through a legal forfeiture process. The CPAA program oversees these cultural repatriations, which can be a small exchange after the legal process is completed or it can include a grand ceremony that commemorates the items' return at the country's embassy in Washington, D.C. or even within the country itself. Repatriation of Tribal cultural and religious items could occur on Tribal lands and within the Tribal customs and traditions as required by the Tribe itself. Whatever the venue, returning a piece of a country's history and heritage to its people is a celebration, and an event in which ICE is particularly proud to participate.

ICE has returned a wide variety of items including paintings, pottery, sculptures, fossils, and sarcophagi. In FY 2016 alone, we repatriated a first edition of Charles Darwin's book, *Origin of the Species*, to Canada; terra cotta figures, jade implements, and a 115 million year-old microraptor fossil to China; a dinosaur skull to Mongolia; imperial decrees to Russia; and several million dollars in statuary and sculptures to the Prime Minister of India during his official visit to the United States. Since 2007, we have returned more than 7,750 items to more than 30 countries.

Conclusion

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify here in Albuquerque and for your continued support of ICE and its law enforcement mission. ICE remains committed to working with this committee and Tribal governments to continue our strong relationship going forward to help prevent and combat the illicit trafficking of Tribal cultural and religious items.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

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CHESAPEAKE FIRE LIEUTENANT PLEADS GUILTY TO ONLINE COERCION AND ENTICEMENT OF MINORS 10/18/2016 States News Service

The following information was released by the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia:

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Eastern District of Virginia

Chesapeake Fire Lieutenant Pleads Guilty to Online Coercion and Enticement of Minors

Thomas W. Almberg, 50, of Virginia Beach, pleaded guilty today to charges of coercing and enticing a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity.

According to the statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, Almberg, a lieutenant in the Chesapeake Fire Department, frequented several social media sites looking for teenage girls to chat with. In January, he met a 15-year-old boy pretending to be a 16-year-old girl on the interactive video game *Clash of Clans*, and the two began chatting and text messaging. Over the next two months, the two exchanged over 8,000 text messages and the conversations quickly grew to be sexually graphic. In April, Almberg met a 16-year-old girl on a different mobile chat application and their conversations quickly became sexual in nature, including the exchange of sexually explicit photographs. In May 2016, Almberg traveled to this victim's workplace in North Carolina and propositioned her for sex. She declined, he left, and was taken into custody shortly thereafter.

Almberg was charged by criminal information on October 12, and faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison when sentenced on January 24, 2017. The maximum statutory sentence is prescribed by Congress and is provided here for informational purposes, as the sentencing of the defendant will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors.

Dana J. Boente, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Col. K.L. Wright, Chesapeake Chief of Police; and Michael K. Lamonea, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Washington, made the announcement after the plea was accepted by U.S.

District Judge Henry Coke Morgan, Jr. Assistant U.S. Attorney V. Kathleen Dougherty is prosecuting the case.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia or on PACER by searching for Case No. 2:16cr136.

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INDICTMENT: SALINA MAN PRODUCED CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
10/18/2016
States News Service

The following information was released by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Kansas:

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

District of Kansas

A federal grand jury returned an indictment here Tuesday charging a Salina man with producing and distributing child pornography, Acting U.S. Attorney Tom Beall said.

Michael N. Rodenbeek, 53, Salina, Kan., is charged with three counts of producing child pornography, one count of distributing child pornography, one count of possessing child pornography, and one count of unlawful possession of a firearm following a felony conviction. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in June, July, August and September, 2016, in Saline and Sedgwick counties.

A complaint filed in the case alleges a Wichita police detective accessed a file sharing network to download child pornography from Rodenbeek's computer. Investigators learned that on June 18, 2016, Rodenbeek used an iPhone to record a 9-year-old girl and on July 19, 2016, he used an iPhone to record a 10-year-old girl.

If convicted, he faces a penalty of not less than 15 years and not more than 30 years on each count of production, not less than five years and not more than 20 years on the distribution count, up to 20 years on the possession count, and up to 10 years on the firearm charge. The Wichita Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations and the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Hart is prosecuting.

OTHER GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Brett Nolan Cico, 31, St. Francis, Kan., is charged with two counts of producing child pornography and two counts of committing a felony involving a minor while registered as a sex offender.

The indictment alleges that on Jan. 15, 2016, he took pictures of a 14-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in Sherman County, Kan.

If convicted, he faces a penalty of not less than 15 years and not more than 30 years on each count of production, and 10 years to be served consecutively on each of the other counts. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Hart is prosecuting.

Kevin Michael Hamill, 28, Wichita, Kan., is charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. The crime is alleged to have occurred Sept. 3, 2016, in Kingman County, Kan.

If convicted, he faces a penalty of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$2 million. The Kingman Police Department investigated. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberley Rodebaugh is prosecuting.

James Ray Lawson, 54, Louisville, Ky., is charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. The crime is alleged to have occurred Sept. 15, 2016, in Ellis County, Kan.,

If convicted, he faces a penalty of not less than 10 years and a fine up to \$4 million on the methamphetamine count, and up to five years and a fine up to \$250,000 on the marijuana count. The Drug Enforcement Administration investigated. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberley Rodebaugh is prosecuting.

Arturo Rodriguez-Martinez, 53, a citizen of Mexico, is charged with unlawfully re-entering the United States after being

deported. He was found Sept. 23, 2016, in Sedgwick County, Kan.

If convicted, he faces a penalty up to two years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations Investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson is prosecuting.

Jose Manuel Arriaga-Guillen, 24, a citizen of Mexico, is charged with unlawfully re-entering the United States after being deported. He was found Sept. 27, 2016, in Sedgwick County, Kan.

If convicted, he faces a penalty up to two years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations Investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson is prosecuting.

Gabriel Lemus-Miranda, 36, a citizen of Mexico, is charged with unlawfully re-entering the United States after being deported. He was found Aug. 18, 2016, in Sedgwick County, Kan.

If convicted, he faces a penalty up to two years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations Investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson is prosecuting.

In all cases, defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The indictments merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.

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Border Brothers Gang Member Sentenced To 12 Years' Imprisonment Following Convictions For Forced Labor, Robbery, And Firearms-Related Offense

10/18/2016

US Official News

Washington: Office for the United States Attorneys, Northern District of California has issued the following news release: Michael "Guantes" Acosta was sentenced this morning to twelve years' imprisonment for his role in a 2013 jewelry robbery, a high-speed chase and crash that ended in Oakland, Calif., and a scheme to prostitute an underage female victim against her will for 30 days, announced United States Attorney Brian J. Stretch and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agent in Charge Ryan L. Spradlin. The sentence was handed down by Honorable Jon S. Tigar, U.S. District Judge.

The sentence follows a guilty plea entered June 10, 2016. According to the plea agreement, Acosta, 23, of Oakland, admitted that in January of 2013, he conspired with three other people to rob a jewelry store owner at gunpoint. The owner was transporting a briefcase full of jewelry from his home to the store when Acosta, with the help of other Border Brothers members and associates, robbed him in the driveway of the storeowner's home. Acosta further admitted that after the stolen jewelry was sold, he obtained \$15,000 for his share of the robbery proceeds and used the funds to purchase a black Mercedes. In late March of 2013, Acosta used the Mercedes to transport an underage victim to a residence of another Border Brothers member where Acosta and others forced the underage female to stay at the co-conspirator's residence for over 30 days. Acosta also assisted others with prostituting the victim and keeping her against her will at the residence. In addition, in August of 2013, Acosta led police on a high speed chase through residential streets in Oakland. Acosta crashed the black Mercedes into the front yard of a home and his car landed on top of another vehicle. At the time of his arrest, Acosta was in possession of a loaded semi-automatic pistol and several balloons containing heroin. Acosta was charged with conspiracy to commit robbery affecting interstate commerce, in violation of 18 U.S.C. ♦ 1951(a); carrying a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, in violation of 18 U.S.C. ♦ 924(c); possession of a controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. ♦ 844; and forced labor, in violation of 18 U.S.C. ♦♦ 1589(a) and 2. Pursuant to his plea agreement, Acosta pleaded guilty to all the charges except carrying a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, which was dismissed. In addition to the prison term, Judge Tigar sentenced Acosta to three years of supervised release and ordered him to pay \$86,570 in restitution. Acosta has been in custody since his arrest in 2013 and will begin serving his sentence immediately. Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia Frey is prosecuting the case with the assistance of Daniel Charlier-Smith and Elise Etter. The prosecution is the result of an investigation by HSI and the Oakland Police Department. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: New York man convicted in Vermont for prescription drug trafficking

10/18/2016

US Official News

Washington: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has issued the following news release: A suburban New York City man was convicted in federal court Thursday on multiple counts related to his role in a prescription drug trafficking ring that included a former New York City police officer.

This conviction resulted from an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), with assistance from the FBI, the DEA, the Vermont State Police, the police departments for Burlington (Vermont) and New York City. Michael J. Foreste, aka Beast, 36, of Valley Stream, New York, was convicted on eight counts related to conspiracy and distribution of Oxycodone in Vermont, and two counts of money laundering in a two-week trial that ended Thursday. A superseding indictment charged Foreste with working with others to sell oxycodone from 2008 through June 2014. Co-conspirators include Andre Clarke, Carol Clarke and Dannis Hackney. During that period, Andre Clarke served as a New York City police officer. Clarke pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy earlier this year and resigned from the NYPD. His sentencing is scheduled for November 7. In September 2016, Hackney pled guilty to several charges relating to his involvement in the oxycodone scheme. He is also awaiting sentencing. Carol Clarke is under federal indictment for conspiring to distribute oxycodone and is currently awaiting trial. According to prosecutors, Carol Clarke, who lived in Brooklyn, received a monthly prescription for hundreds of oxycodone to treat a medical condition. She allegedly diverted the pills to her brother, Andre Clarke, of Long Island, who supplied them to Foreste. In the early part of the conspiracy, Foreste brought the pills to Vermont himself and sold them with the help of certain local addicts. However, in April 2012 Vermont State Police stopped Foreste in a vehicle on Interstate 91 North and seized 659 oxycodone pills from his person. Based on this incident, Foreste sustained a federal conviction in 2013 for possession with intent to distribute oxycodone. He remained on pretrial release throughout that earlier case. After April 2012, Foreste began working with Hackney, of Chittenden County, Vermont, who sold Foreste's pills to Burlington area addicts. Foreste eventually began mailing the pills to Hackney via U.S. Mail. The Clarkes, Foreste, and Hackney transferred drug proceeds using various bank accounts, resulting in Foreste's two convictions for money laundering. Foreste and Hackney have been in custody since their arrests in June 2014. Foreste's sentencing is not yet scheduled. He faces a maximum prison sentence of twenty years on each count. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Christina E. Nolan and Kevin J. Doyle. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: Border Brothers Gang Member Sentenced To 12 Years' Imprisonment Following Convictions For Forced Labor, Robbery, And Firearms-Related Offense

10/18/2016

US Official News

Washington: US Department of Justice has issued the following news release: Michael "Guantes" Acosta was sentenced this morning to twelve years' imprisonment for his role in a 2013 jewelry robbery, a high-speed chase and crash that ended in Oakland, Calif., and a scheme to prostitute an underage female victim against her will for 30 days, announced United States Attorney Brian J. Stretch and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agent in Charge Ryan L. Spradlin. The sentence was handed down by Honorable Jon S. Tigar, U.S. District Judge.

The sentence follows a guilty plea entered June 10, 2016. According to the plea agreement, Acosta, 23, of Oakland, admitted that in January of 2013, he conspired with three other people to rob a jewelry store owner at gunpoint. The owner was transporting a briefcase full of jewelry from his home to the store when Acosta, with the help of other Border Brothers members and associates, robbed him in the driveway of the storeowner's home. Acosta further admitted that after the stolen jewelry was sold, he obtained \$15,000 for his share of the robbery proceeds and used the funds to purchase a black Mercedes. In late March of 2013, Acosta used the Mercedes to transport an underage victim to a residence of another Border Brothers member where Acosta and others forced the underage female to stay at the co-conspirator's residence for over 30 days. Acosta also assisted others with prostituting the victim and keeping her against her will at the residence. In addition, in August of 2013, Acosta led police on a high speed chase through residential streets in Oakland. Acosta crashed the black Mercedes into the front yard of a home and his car landed on top of another vehicle. At the time of his arrest, Acosta was in possession of a loaded semi-automatic pistol and several balloons containing heroin. Acosta was charged with conspiracy to commit robbery affecting interstate commerce, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951(a); carrying a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c); possession of a controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 844; and forced labor, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1589(a) and 2. Pursuant to his plea agreement, Acosta pleaded guilty to all the charges except carrying a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, which was dismissed. In addition to the prison term, Judge Tigar sentenced Acosta to three years of supervised release and ordered him to pay \$86,570 in restitution. Acosta has been in custody since his arrest in 2013 and will begin serving his sentence immediately. Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia Frey is prosecuting the case with the assistance of Daniel Charlier-Smith and Elise Etter. The prosecution is the result of an investigation by HSI and the Oakland Police Department. In case of any query regarding this article or other

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Washington: Iraqi Refugee Convicted of Attempting to Provide Material Support to ISIL

10/18/2016

US Official News

Washington: US Department of Justice has issued the following news release: Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan, the 24-year-old Houston resident charged with attempting to provide material support or resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization, has pleaded guilty.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth Magidson, Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security Mary B. McCord, Special Agent in Charge Perrye K. Turner of the FBI's Houston Division and Special Agent in Charge Mark Dawson of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations in Houston made the announcement. Al Hardan, a refugee born in Iraq, pleaded guilty today to one count of attempting to provide material support – specifically himself – to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Al Hardan entered the U.S. as a refugee on or about Nov. 2, 2009. Prior to entering the country, Al Hardan was in at least two refugee camps in Jordan and Iraq. After being admitted into the U.S. as an Iraqi refugee, he was granted legal permanent residence status on or about Aug. 22, 2011, and had resided in Houston. In April 2014, federal agents began investigating Al Hardan who had been communicating with a California man whom he understood was associated with Al-Nusrah front. In those communications, the individual had told Al Hardan that he had previously traveled to Syria to fight for Al-Nusrah and discussed plans to return to Syria with Al Hardan to fight for Al-Nusrah. Beginning in June 2014 and continuing through 2015, Al Hardan also developed a relationship with a Confidential Human Source (CHS). During that time, they discussed traveling overseas to support ISIL in fighting jihad and various ways to assist ISIL. Al Hardan also said he wanted to be trained in building remote transmitter/receiver detonators for improvised explosive devices, wanted to learn to use cell phones as the remote detonators and wanted to build remote detonators for ISIL. Al Hardan indicated he taught himself how to make remote detonators by accessing online training videos and other resources he found online and showed the CHS a circuit board he built to be used as a transmitter for a detonator. On Nov. 5, 2014, Al Hardan took an oath of loyalty to ISIL, according to the plea agreement. Two days later, Al Hardan and the CHS participated in approximately one hour of tactical weapons training with an AK-47 that Al Hardan indicated he wanted. During the investigation, Al Hardan had also posted many statements on social media in support of ISIL. One of those included a photo of a Humvee with an ISIL flag. Above the photo, Al Hardan posted, "ISIS yesterday in Iraq, today in Syria and Allah willing, tomorrow in Jerusalem." He also made numerous statements about his plans to travel to Syria and fight alongside ISIL and become a martyr. In one instance he said "I want to blow myself up. I want to travel with the Mujahidin. I want to travel to be with those who are against America. I am against America." Upon his arrest in January 2016, investigators discovered training CDs on how to build remote detonators, electronic circuitry components, tools used to build circuitry, multiple cell phones (that had not been activated), a prayer list for committing Jihad and becoming a martyr and the ISIL flag. Al Hardan has been and will remain in custody pending his sentencing hearing, set for Jan. 17, 2017. At that time, he faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a possible \$250,000 fine. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and HSI conducted the investigation with the assistance of the Houston Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorneys S. Mark McIntyre and Ralph Imperato are prosecuting the case with assistance of the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: Indictment: Salina Man Produced Child Pornography

10/18/2016

US Official News

Washington: US Department of Justice has issued the following news release: A federal grand jury returned an indictment here Tuesday charging a Salina man with producing and distributing child pornography, Acting U.S. Attorney Tom Beall said. Michael N. Rodenbeek, 53, Salina, Kan., is charged with three counts of producing child pornography, one count of distributing child pornography, one count of possessing child pornography, and one count of unlawful possession of a firearm following a felony conviction. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in June, July, August and September, 2016, in Saline and Sedgwick counties.

A complaint filed in the case alleges a Wichita police detective accessed a file sharing network to download child pornography from Rodenbeek's computer. Investigators learned that on June 18, 2016, Rodenbeek used an iPhone to record a 9-year-old girl and on July 19, 2016, he used an iPhone to record a 10-year-old girl. If convicted, he faces a penalty of not less than 15 years and not more than 30 years on each count of production, not less than five years and not more than 20 years on the distribution count, up to 20 years on the possession count, and up to 10 years on the

firearm charge. The Wichita Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations and the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Hart is prosecuting. OTHER GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS Brett Nolan Cico, 31, St. Francis, Kan., is charged with two counts of producing child pornography and two counts of committing a felony involving a minor while registered as a sex offender. The indictment alleges that on Jan. 15, 2016, he took pictures of a 14-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in Sherman County, Kan. If convicted, he faces a penalty of not less than 15 years and not more than 30 years on each count of production, and 10 years to be served consecutively on each of the other counts. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security Investigations investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Hart is prosecuting. Kevin Michael Hamill, 28, Wichita, Kan., is charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. The crime is alleged to have occurred Sept. 3, 2016, in Kingman County, Kan. If convicted, he faces a penalty of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in federal prison and a fine up to \$2 million. The Kingman Police Department investigated. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberley Rodebaugh is prosecuting. James Ray Lawson, 54, Louisville, Ky., is charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. The crime is alleged to have occurred Sept. 15, 2016, in Ellis County, Kan., If convicted, he faces a penalty of not less than 10 years and a fine up to \$4 million on the methamphetamine count, and up to five years and a fine up to \$250,000 on the marijuana count. The Drug Enforcement Administration investigated. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberley Rodebaugh is prosecuting. Arturo Rodriguez-Martinez, 53, a citizen of Mexico, is charged with unlawfully re-entering the United States after being deported. He was found Sept. 23, 2016, in Sedgwick County, Kan. If convicted, he faces a penalty up to two years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations Investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson is prosecuting. Jose Manuel Arriaga-Guillen, 24, a citizen of Mexico, is charged with unlawfully re-entering the United States after being deported. He was found Sept. 27, 2016, in Sedgwick County, Kan. If convicted, he faces a penalty up to two years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations Investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson is prosecuting. Gabriel Lemus-Miranda, 36, a citizen of Mexico, is charged with unlawfully re-entering the United States after being deported. He was found Aug. 18, 2016, in Sedgwick County, Kan. If convicted, he faces a penalty up to two years in federal prison and a fine up to \$250,000. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations Investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson is prosecuting. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: Chesapeake Fire Lieutenant Pleads Guilty to Online Coercion and Enticement of Minors
10/18/2016
US Official News

Washington: US Department of Justice has issued the following news release: Thomas W. Almberg, 50, of Virginia Beach, pleaded guilty today to charges of coercing and enticing a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity.

According to the statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, Almberg, a lieutenant in the Chesapeake Fire Department, frequented several social media sites looking for teenage girls to chat with. In January, he met a 15-year-old boy pretending to be a 16-year-old girl on the interactive video game Clash of Clans, and the two began chatting and text messaging. Over the next two months, the two exchanged over 8,000 text messages and the conversations quickly grew to be sexually graphic. In April, Almberg met a 16-year-old girl on a different mobile chat application and their conversations quickly became sexual in nature, including the exchange of sexually explicit photographs. In May 2016, Almberg traveled to this victim's workplace in North Carolina and propositioned her for sex. She declined, he left, and was taken into custody shortly thereafter. Almberg was charged by criminal information on October 12, and faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison when sentenced on January 24, 2017. The maximum statutory sentence is prescribed by Congress and is provided here for informational purposes, as the sentencing of the defendant will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. Dana J. Boente, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Col. K.L. Wright, Chesapeake Chief of Police; and Michael K. Lamonea, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Washington, made the announcement after the plea was accepted by U.S. District Judge Henry Coke Morgan, Jr. Assistant U.S. Attorney V. Kathleen Dougherty is prosecuting the case. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: Fort Worth Man Sentenced to 172 Months in Federal Prison for Kidnapping and Enticing Two Teenage Girls to Engage in Sexual Activity
10/18/2016
US Official News

Washington: US Department of Justice has issued the following news release: A Fort Worth, Texas, resident, Robert Blaine Harris, 50, was sentenced this morning by U.S. District Judge Reed C. O'Connor to 172 months in federal prison, following his guilty plea in July 2016 to an indictment charging one count of enticement of a minor and aiding and abetting, announced U.S. Attorney John Parker of the Northern District of Texas.

Harris has been in custody since his arrest in January 2016. According to documents filed in the case, beginning in December 2015, Harris engaged in a relationship with a minor, Jane Doe 1, using Skout, an online dating application. Harris persuaded, induced, and enticed Jane Doe 1 and another 13-year-old female, Jane Doe 2, to engage in sexual activity. On January 2, 2016, Harris acknowledged in a message that he knew both girls were "underage and I could get in really big trouble and that would ruin my life." In the early morning hours of January 2, 2016, Harris traveled to Abilene and picked up the two 13-year-old females and transported them to his residence in Fort Worth to engage in sexual activity. The two juvenile females were recovered by law enforcement at Harris' residence on January 9, 2016, after Harris called the Fort Worth police. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Project Safe Childhood (PSC) initiative. PSC is a department initiative launched in May 2006 to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC marshals federal, state, tribal and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. Since FY 2011, the Department of Justice has filed 20,260 PSC cases against 19,111 defendants. These cases include prosecutions of child sex trafficking; sexual abuse of a minor or ward; child pornography offenses; obscene visual representation of the sexual abuse of children; selling or buying of children; and many more statutes. To learn more about PSC's work, please visit: <https://www.justice.gov/psc>. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), San Angelo Police Department, Abilene Police Department and Fort Worth Police Department investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Juanita Fielden was in charge of the prosecution. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: Tallahassee Man Convicted of Federal Child Pornography Crimes

10/18/2016

US Official News

Washington: US Department of Justice has issued the following news release: Ray Eugene Collins, 62, of Tallahassee, was convicted today of receipt, distribution, and possession of child pornography. The verdict was announced by Christopher P. Canova, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida.

At trial, the government presented evidence that, in January 2014, law enforcement officers identified a computer determined to belong to Collins that was sharing child pornography files through a peer-to-peer network. A forensic review of Collins's laptop and external hard drive revealed that Collins had downloaded dozens of videos and images of child pornography between October 2013 and January 2014. This case resulted from investigations by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations and the Leon County Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jason S. Beaton. Collins faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of 20 years in prison. Collins's sentencing hearing is scheduled for January 11, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. at the United States Courthouse in Tallahassee. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Washington: Two Men Charged with Sex Trafficking of Three Victims

10/18/2016

US Official News

Washington: US Department of Justice has issued the following news release: Tammy Dickinson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two men were charged in federal court today for the sex trafficking of three victims.

Calvin Anthony Miller, also known as "Serious," 34, and his cousin, Henry Dailey, 36, were charged with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking in a criminal complaint filed in the U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Mo. Miller and Dailey remain in federal custody pending a detention hearing on Oct. 20, 2016. Today's complaint is the result of Operation Cross Country X, an international FBI investigation of sex trafficking in partnership with local law enforcement agencies. According to an affidavit filed in support of the federal criminal complaint, a federal undercover agent assisted the Independence, Mo., Police Department, posing as a customer attempting to hire a prostitute for sex. On Oct. 14, 2016, the undercover agent located an online listing for an individual identified as Victim 1. The post included provocative and partially nude photos and her description and some possible acts that she was willing to do. The agent contacted Victim

1 and she agreed to meet him at a hotel. Victim 1 provided law enforcement officers with information on Miller, who she said was her pimp, and Dailey, both of whom she said exploited commercial sex workers. Victim 1 told law enforcement officers that Miller was violent and abusive, the affidavit says. According to the affidavit, Victim 1 located online advertisements for two additional women who had been trafficked by Miller, identified as Victim 2 and Victim 3. Victim 2, who is described in the affidavit as "a very young baby-faced girl," had recently arrived in Kansas City on a bus with Dailey, the affidavit says. An Independence police detective located Victim 2 with Dailey at an Independence hotel. They were detained, the affidavit says, and Victim 2 told the detective that she wanted away from the group and just wanted to go home. Law enforcement officers also found Victim 3 at the hotel. She stated, "If I tell you anything he will kill me" and started crying. Victim 3 stated that she did not believe the police could provide enough security to protect her from "these guys." Victim 3 said she wanted to leave and get away from Miller. While at the hotel, agents determined that Miller had rented two rooms on the third floor and a room on the first floor. Agents made contact with Miller on the third floor. Miller was noncompliant with law enforcement requests, was directed to the ground, and cuffed. Each of the victims told law enforcement officers that Miller and Dailey required them to work as prostitutes, threatening them with violence and death if they tried to leave, and took all of their money. According to the affidavit, they also said that Miller and Dailey forced them to use drugs to keep them addicted and dependent on them. Victim 3 said Miller had broken her hip during a violent encounter in Overland Park, Kan., in June 2016. According to the affidavit, Victim 3 was treated at the hospital, and when she was released she was given six weeks' worth of pain medication. After a week, she said, Miller had used the remaining amount of her pain medication. After two weeks, Miller allegedly required her to begin working as a commercial sex worker with a broken hip, without pain medication. According to the affidavit, Victim 3 showed federal agents the ledger where she had been keeping track of the money she had made. Victim 3 told agents that she had paid Miller approximately \$13,000 over the past month. Victim 3 told agents that Miller had transported her from St. Louis to Kansas City, Las Vegas, and as far away as Washington state to work as a commercial sex worker. She had wanted to leave on multiple occasions, she said, but was not able to leave. Victim 3 also told agents that Miller had a Google voice account which allowed him to view and hear all text message and verbal conversations on her phone. Dickinson cautioned that the charges contained in this complaint are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Teresa A. Moore. It was investigated by the FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Independence, Mo., Police Department. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Head Line: US Federal Contract Notice: Department of Homeland Security (Indiana) Issues Solicitation for "Janitorial Services in Buffalo, NY"

10/18/2016

US Official News

WASHINGTON: Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection officer has issued requirement for "Janitorial Services in Buffalo, NY" Solicitation No: HSBP1017Q0003 Notice Type: Combined Synopsis/Solicitation Posted Date: October 18, 2016 Description: (1) This is a combined synopsis/solicitation for commercial items prepared in accordance with the format in subpart 12.6 as supplemented with additional information included in the notice. This announcement constitutes the only solicitation; proposals are being requested and a written solicitation will not be issued.

(2) The solicitation number is HSBP1017Q0003 and is issued as a request for quote (RFQ). The solicitation document and incorporated provisions and clauses are those in effect through Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) 2005-91. The associated North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code for this procurement is 561720 with a small business size standard of \$16.5 million. (3) This procurement shall be small business set-aside. All qualified, responsible sources may submit an offer that shall be considered by the agency. Offerors are advised that they are responsible for obtaining amendments. The resulting contract shall be awarded to the offeror who provides the lowest price technically acceptable. Prior to award, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall inspect the proposed facility to ensure it meets the requirements of the Statement of Work (SOW) for technical acceptability. Set Aside: Total Small Business The NAICS code number for this requirement: 561 Contact Details: 6650 Telecom Drive Intech Two, Suite 100 Indianapolis, Indiana 46278 United States Point of Contact(s): Gary M. Orr Gary.Orr@dhs.gov

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Head Line: US Federal Contract Notice: Department of Homeland Security (Indiana) Issues Solicitation for "Waste Removal Services in Alexandria Bay, NY"

10/18/2016

US Official News

WASHINGTON: Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection officer has issued requirement for "Waste Removal Services in Alexandria Bay, NY" Solicitation No: HSBP1017Q0004 Notice Type: Combined Synopsis/Solicitation Posted Date: October 18, 2016 Description: (1) This is a combined synopsis/solicitation for commercial items prepared in accordance with the format in subpart 12.6 as supplemented with additional information included in the notice. This announcement constitutes the only solicitation; proposals are being requested and a written solicitation will not be issued.

(2) The solicitation number is HSBP1017Q0004 and is issued as a request for quote (RFQ). The solicitation document and incorporated provisions and clauses are those in effect through Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) 2005-91. The associated North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code for this procurement is 562219 with a small business size standard of \$38.5 million. Set Aside: Total Small Business The NAICS code number for this requirement: 562 Contact Details: 6650 Telecom Drive Intech Two, Suite 100 Indianapolis, Indiana 46278 United States Point of Contact(s): Gary M. Orr Gary.Orr@dhs.gov

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Fort Worth Man Sentenced to 172 Months in Federal Prison for Kidnapping and Enticing Two Teenage Girls to Engage in Sexual Activity

10/18/2016

US Official News

Washington: Office for the United States Attorneys, Northern District of Texas has issued the following news release: A Fort Worth, Texas, resident, Robert Blaine Harris, 50, was sentenced this morning by U.S. District Judge Reed C. O'Connor to 172 months in federal prison, following his guilty plea in July 2016 to an indictment charging one count of enticement of a minor and aiding and abetting, announced U.S. Attorney John Parker of the Northern District of Texas.

Harris has been in custody since his arrest in January 2016. According to documents filed in the case, beginning in December 2015, Harris engaged in a relationship with a minor, Jane Doe 1, using Skout, an online dating application. Harris persuaded, induced, and enticed Jane Doe 1 and another 13-year-old female, Jane Doe 2, to engage in sexual activity. On January 2, 2016, Harris acknowledged in a message that he knew both girls were "underage and I could get in really big trouble and that would ruin my life." In the early morning hours of January 2, 2016, Harris traveled to Abilene and picked up the two 13-year-old females and transported them to his residence in Fort Worth to engage in sexual activity. The two juvenile females were recovered by law enforcement at Harris' residence on January 9, 2016, after Harris called the Fort Worth police. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Project Safe Childhood (PSC) initiative. PSC is a department initiative launched in May 2006 to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, PSC marshals federal, state, tribal and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. Since FY 2011, the Department of Justice has filed 20,260 PSC cases against 19,111 defendants. These cases include prosecutions of child sex trafficking; sexual abuse of a minor or ward; child pornography offenses; obscene visual representation of the sexual abuse of children; selling or buying of children; and many more statutes. To learn more about PSC's work, please visit: <https://www.justice.gov/psc>. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), San Angelo Police Department, Abilene Police Department and Fort Worth Police Department investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Juanita Fielden was in charge of the prosecution. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Romania Extradites Alleged Leader of "Italian Mafia Brussels" Drug Trafficking Organization to Colorado for Prosecution

10/18/2016

US Official News

Washington: Office for the United States Attorneys, District of Colorado has issued the following news release: Filip Lucian Simion, 23, was extradited from Romania to Denver, Colorado so he can face drug trafficking and money laundering charges, Acting United States Attorney Bob Troyer, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Denver Division Special Agent in Charge David Thompson and the Denver Division U.S. Postal Inspector in Charge Craig Goldberg announced. On May 5, 2016, Simion was indicted, along with three others, for importation of controlled substances and money laundering. The defendant made his initial appearance today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Kristen L. Mix. Co-defendant Leonardo Cristea, 25, arrived in the District of Colorado pursuant to an extradition order from Romania on July 29, 2016.

The investigation, which was initiated in July of 2013, resulted in numerous seizures of kilogram quantities of MDMA

(3,4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine, a Schedule I controlled substance commonly known as Ecstasy) intended for importation into the United States via the mail from various countries in Europe. The organization operated online as the Darknet vendor "ItalianMafiaBrussels" or "IMB" and used encrypted email and TOR-based online black markets, such as the now defunct Silk Road and Silk Road 2.0, to sell the MDMA, primarily to United States and Canadian customers. The organization accepted payment for the drugs only in bitcoin. In 2014 and 2015, several defendants were charged and convicted in the District of Colorado for distribution of MDMA sourced by the organization. On May 3, 2016, in a joint U.S./European enforcement action, law enforcement dismantled the ItalianMafiaBrussels Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO), arresting ten defendants during early morning raids in Bruges, Belgium and surrounding areas. The extradited defendants, Filip Lucian Simion and Leonardo Cristea, were arrested simultaneously in Bucharest, Romania. The remaining defendants, including two of the defendants named in the U.S. indictment, will be prosecuted in Belgium. The nine count indictment charges defendants Leonardo Cristea, Ymran Djavatkhonov, Andy Nestor, and Filip Lucian Simion with conspiracies to distribute and import into the United States controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 963. The defendants are also charged with substantive counts of importation of controlled substances and aiding and abetting, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 952(a), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2. In addition, Filip Lucian Simion is charged in several counts of distribution of controlled substances by means of the Internet, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(h)(1)(A) and conspiracy to launder money, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h). If convicted on any of the counts charged, Filip Lucian Simion and Leonardo Cristea face a maximum possible penalty of 20 years' imprisonment. The defendants' criminal history and the amount or weight of the drugs being imported are factors a judge will consider at sentencing. This case was investigated by the Denver Illicit Digital Economy Working Group, comprised of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Internal Revenue Service, in partnership with the Romanian Central Anti-Narcotics Unit in Bucharest, Romania, and the Belgian Federal Judicial Police, East Flanders Drug Unit in Dendermonde, Belgium. Other United States and international agencies assisting the working group in this investigation included: the Boulder County Drug Task Force, the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, the Boulder County District Attorney's Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection offices nationwide, the Department of Justice Office of International Affairs, ATF Atlanta, DEA Chicago, Europol, and Eurojust. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney and Digital Currency Crimes Coordinator Michele R. Korver. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Iraqi Refugee Convicted of Attempting to Provide Material Support to ISIL

10/18/2016

US Official News

Washington: Office for the United States Attorneys, Southern District of Texas has issued the following news release: Omar Faraj Saeed Al Hardan, the 24-year-old Houston resident charged with attempting to provide material support or resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization, has pleaded guilty.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth Magidson, Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security Mary B. McCord, Special Agent in Charge Perrye K. Turner of the FBI's Houston Division and Special Agent in Charge Mark Dawson of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Houston made the announcement. Al Hardan, a refugee born in Iraq, pleaded guilty today to one count of attempting to provide material support – specifically himself – to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Al Hardan entered the United States as a refugee on or about Nov. 2, 2009. Prior to entering the country, Al Hardan was in at least two refugee camps in Jordan and Iraq. After being admitted into the U.S. as an Iraqi refugee, he was granted legal permanent residence status on or about Aug. 22, 2011, and had resided in Houston. In April 2014, federal agents began investigating Al Hardan who had been communicating with a California man whom he understood was associated with Al-Nusrah front. In those communications, the individual had told Al Hardan that he had previously traveled to Syria to fight for Al-Nusrah and discussed plans to return to Syria with Al Hardan to fight for Al-Nusrah. Beginning in June 2014 and continuing through 2015, Al Hardan also developed a relationship with a Confidential Human Source (CHS). During that time, they discussed traveling overseas to support ISIL in fighting jihad and various ways to assist ISIL. Al Hardan also said he wanted to be trained in building remote transmitter/receiver detonators for improvised explosive devices, wanted to learn to use cell phones as the remote detonators and wanted to build remote detonators for ISIL. Al Hardan indicated he taught himself how to make remote detonators by accessing online training videos and other resources he found online and showed the CHS a circuit board he built to be used as a transmitter for a detonator. On Nov. 5, 2014, Al Hardan took an oath of loyalty to ISIL, according to the plea agreement. Two days later, Al Hardan and the CHS participated in approximately one hour of tactical weapons training with an AK-47 that Al Hardan indicated he wanted. During the investigation, Al Hardan had also posted many statements on social media in support of ISIL. One of those included a photo of a Humvee with an ISIL flag. Above the photo, Al Hardan posted, "ISIS yesterday in Iraq, today in Syria and Allah willing, tomorrow in Jerusalem." He also made numerous statements about his plans to travel to Syria and fight alongside ISIL and become a martyr. In one instance he said "I want to blow myself up. I want to travel with the Mujahidin. I want to travel to be with those who are against America. I am against America." Upon his arrest in

January 2016, investigators discovered training CDs on how to build remote detonators, electronic circuitry components, tools used to build circuitry, multiple cell phones (that had not been activated), a prayer list for committing Jihad and becoming a martyr and the ISIL flag. Al Hardan has been and will remain in custody pending his sentencing hearing, set for Jan. 17, 2017. At that time, he faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a possible \$250,000 fine. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and HSI conducted the investigation with the assistance of the Houston Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorneys S. Mark McIntyre and Ralph Imperato are prosecuting the case with assistance of the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

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Congressional candidate issues immigration proposal

10/18/2016

Journal, The

SENECA - Democratic congressional candidate Hosea Cleveland proposed Monday allowing soldiers the option of protecting the border instead of serving in combat.

Cleveland's campaign said in a statement that he wants to expand the U.S. armed forces to let soldiers 18 to 21 opt out of overseas combat to protect the U.S.-Mexican border.

"With the expansion of the U.S. armed forces, we will have better control over the border so that we can actually vet those people who are coming into our country and let those who are not harmful or violent freely in to begin the process of gaining citizenship, stopping the human traffickers and criminals along the way," the statement said.

Cleveland, who joined the Army after graduating high school in 1975, is running against Republican Congressman Jeff Duncan to represent South Carolina's Third Congressional District. Duncan, who won election in 2010, is seeking his fourth two-year term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Approximately 5.8 million unauthorized Mexican immigrants were living in the U.S. in 2014, according to the Pew Research Center. The Migration Policy Institute estimates that 59,000 unauthorized Mexican immigrants were living in South Carolina.

"One thing is certain: the border is not secure right now," Cleveland's statement said. "We need to find a humane and acceptable way to deal with the human traffickers who are trafficking Mexican immigrants into our country illegally and unsafely."

Cleveland made clear that he does not want to halt immigration to the U.S.

"(Border security) cannot be about keeping Mexican immigrants out, as the national rhetoric claims it is about," Cleveland said. "This is about ensuring the safe immigration of those people who want to accomplish the American dream."

Cleveland's opponent, Duncan, said in an email to The Journal that protecting U.S. borders is critical to the country's sovereignty. Duncan added that the Obama administration "has universally failed" to provide border security and enforce current laws to protect U.S. citizens.

"Our porous southern border is a clear and present danger to the safety and security of America," Duncan said. "Following the disastrous policies of the Obama administration, we need leaders who are willing to take a stand and speak boldly about the challenges facing our nation."

President Barack Obama deported more than 2 million people from 2009 to 2013, according to the Department of Homeland Security. Obama passed executive actions in 2014 expanding the population eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and allowing parents of U.S. citizens to request deferred action on deportation. A 4-4 tie in the U.S. Supreme Court in June halted the actions.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has made immigration a top issue in the 2016 election cycle. Trump first proposed building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico in his June 2015 announcement to run for president.

"I would build a great wall," Trump said at Trump Tower. "And I will have Mexico pay for that wall."

If elected, Trump plans to end sanctuary cities, suspend visas "where adequate screening cannot occur" and triple the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, according to donaldjtrump.com

Without saying Trump's name in a December 2015 speech, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton criticized building a wall.

"We are a big country, and ♦€ we shouldn't let anybody on the public stage say that we are ♦€ going to build walls, mentally or physically, or that we are going to shut doors," Clinton said.

A Clinton administration would "enforce immigration laws humanely," according to hillaryclinton.com. Clinton wants to provide a pathway to full citizenship, end detention for families who are "in desperate situations" and deport individuals who pose a threat.

Cleveland said in his campaign statement the he will support legislation as a congressman that addresses border safety "in the most humane way possible."

Cleveland also expressed concern about young soldiers dying abroad in combat. According to his statement, the plan "ensures that young men and women ♦€ are not sent off to die for their country before they can even have a legal alcoholic beverage in their country."

"For many young people, the military is the greatest option for their future," the statement said. "By no means should that mean putting them at the front lines of an overseas war at such a young age."

Cleveland believes the plan will help young enlistees mature as soldiers, secure the border without racial profiling and create jobs in the armed forces.

Duncan's legislative assistant, David Jackson, told The Journal that Cleveland's proposal would violate the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878. Amended in 1956 to include the Air Force, the act states, "Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorized by the Constitution or Act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or the Air Force as an (agent of the law) or otherwise to execute the laws shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both."

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Homeland Security Testifies at Hearing on Theft of Tribal Cultural Items

10/18/2016

Targeted News Service

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued the following testimony by Waldemar Rodriguez, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations special agent, at a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing titled "The Theft, Illegal Possession, Sale, Transfer and Export of Tribal Cultural Items" at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center:

"Chairman Barrasso, Vice Chairman Tester, Senator Udall, Senator Heinrich, and distinguished Members of the Committee:

"Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the efforts of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to protect cultural and religious items, property, art and antiquities, and mitigate their illicit trafficking both into and out of the United States.

"As the largest investigative agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), ICE investigates a wide range of domestic and international activities arising from the illegal movement of people, goods, and money with a nexus to the borders of the United States. Federal customs law regarding smuggling and trafficking, as well as customs border search authority provide ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) with the capability and responsibility to take a leading role in investigating crimes involving the import and distribution of stolen or looted cultural property, and prosecuting those individuals and organizations responsible for these crimes. ICE is the lead federal investigative agency with respect to export enforcement due to its jurisdiction over the investigation of crimes related to the U.S. border. However, investigations into the export of Tribal cultural items present challenges due to limitations on existing authorities and enforcement resources. To conduct its complex investigations, ICE may collaborate with Tribal, Federal, State and local law enforcement, private institutions, and foreign governments. ICE has the ability to work directly with cultural resources practitioners to support these collaborative investigations.

"ICE's Cultural Property, Art and Antiquities (CPAA) Program

"ICE has established the Cultural Property, Art and Antiquities (CPAA) program to oversee efforts related to the protection of cultural property. The mission of the CPAA program is three-fold: conduct training on the preservation, protection, and investigation of cultural heritage and property; coordinate and support investigations involving the illicit trafficking of cultural property from countries around the world; and facilitate the repatriation of illicit cultural items seized as a result of HSI investigations to the artifacts' lawful owners.

"Education and Training

"With funding provided by the Cultural Heritage Center (CHC) within the U.S. Department of State (DOS) and support from the Smithsonian Institution, ICE continues to train law enforcement officers on the handling, investigation, and seizure of items believed to be another nation's cultural property.

"Since 2007, approximately 400 special agents, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, prosecutors, and representatives of foreign law enforcement have been trained by experts in the fields of cultural property law, targeting, intelligence, archeology, and museum conservation. In recent years, part of the training was held at the National Museum of the American Indian, where participants received guided tours of exhibits by experts. Our goal is to train as many law enforcement officers as possible to broaden the base of expertise in cultural property investigations. Today, ICE is working more closely than ever with CBP to ensure the efforts of our agents and officers are fully integrated throughout the lifecycle of a case.

"In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, the CPAA program has also been represented in multiple conferences and workshops and the program is working with several different federal government agencies to develop more training and capacity-building workshops for FY 2017.

"Education is not limited to law enforcement personnel directly involved in investigations and prosecutions. In less formal settings, ICE continues to educate potential brokers and purchasers of cultural property on the importance of provenance (history of ownership) and encourages individuals to report any encounters with individuals seeking to sell merchandise to the HSI Tip Line.

"Investigations

"The CPAA program plays a supporting role in cultural property investigations by identifying subject matter experts to authenticate items that may have indigenous cultural and religious significance, coordinating leads with other offices, and acting as a liaison to INTERPOL and law enforcement agencies. The program supports ICE's approximately 7,000 special agents in more than 200 domestic offices throughout the United States and 63 international attache offices. While any ICE special agent may work a cultural property case at some time in his or her career, HSI New York has a team of special agents that works exclusively on cultural property cases. HSI Los Angeles has also recently established its own specialized team whose focus will include cultural property investigations.

"Investigations into indigenous cultural property trafficking could result from a variety of leads, including: a direct request from Tribal leadership; CBP as a result of border searches, interdictions; foreign country notification of a sale at an auction house; the CPAA program; ICE Attaches; as well as lines of inquiry generated by a special agent. ICE enforces the cultural artifact import restrictions of bilateral agreements the United States (through DOS) has with 15 countries (Belize, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Mali, Nicaragua and Peru), as well as import restrictions for Iraq and Syria. These bilateral agreements help protect cultural property by imposing U.S. import restrictions on certain categories of archeological and/or ethnological material. Even with import restrictions in place, a single cultural property investigation can result in complex cases involving multiple domestic and international ICE offices, as well as other law enforcement agencies, and can last for years. For example, one of ICE's largest, ongoing cultural property investigations, Hidden Idols, began in 2007 and has resulted in the seizure of more than \$150 million in artifacts. In FY 2015, ICE worked 239 domestic and 102 international cultural property investigations.

"Investigating Cases with a Nexus to Tribal Cultural Items

"ICE enforces an extremely broad set of federal laws and regulations with jurisdiction over the investigation of crimes related to the U.S. border. While ICE is the lead investigative agency for the illegal import or export of cultural property, ICE would not typically be the lead investigatory agency for the theft and illegal transport of Tribal cultural items within the United States. For example, if customs officers were to discover that Tribal cultural items were transported into or out of the United States in violation of existing import or export law, ICE would have authority and jurisdiction to conduct an investigation.

"Buyers and sellers of illicitly obtained antiquities, cultural, and religious items often do not limit themselves to one type of artifact. As a result, ICE has worked cases involving smuggled antiquities from foreign sources only to find Tribal cultural items are also part of a criminal's cache of artifacts. For example, as part of an ongoing investigation of the illicit sale of pre-Columbian artifacts, ICE discovered that Tribal cultural items were also being offered for purchase by the same seller.

"In another case, an individual in the Southwest collected both Tribal and Egyptian cultural items, resulting in a case requiring involvement by ICE, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Interior. A further example of collaboration with other law enforcement agencies was an investigation involving the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. In this case, ICE worked with the other agencies to search a residence in Arizona and seize Tribal cultural items as well as controlled substances and weapons. ICE's authorities related to the protection of Tribal cultural items also extend to intellectual property rights, such as the selling of imported goods being fraudulently marketed as Native American jewelry.

"Cultural Repatriation

"Cultural property investigations often result in the seizure of cultural property, which must be repatriated to its lawful owners through a legal forfeiture process. The CPAA program oversees these cultural repatriations, which can be a small exchange after the legal process is completed or it can include a grand ceremony that commemorates the items' return at the country's embassy in Washington, D.C. or even within the country itself. Repatriation of Tribal cultural and religious items could occur on Tribal lands and within the Tribal customs and traditions as required by the Tribe itself. Whatever the venue, returning a piece of a country's history and heritage to its people is a celebration, and an event in which ICE is particularly proud to participate.

"ICE has returned a wide variety of items including paintings, pottery, sculptures, fossils, and sarcophagi. In FY 2016 alone, we repatriated a first edition of Charles Darwin's book, *Origin of the Species*, to Canada; terra cotta figures, jade implements, and a 115 million year-old microraptor fossil to China; a dinosaur skull to Mongolia; imperial decrees to Russia; and several million dollars in statuary and sculptures to the Prime Minister of India during his official visit to the

United States. Since 2007, we have returned more than 7,750 items to more than 30 countries.

"Conclusion

"Thank you again for the opportunity to testify here in Albuquerque and for your continued support of ICE and its law enforcement mission. ICE remains committed to working with this committee and Tribal governments to continue our strong relationship going forward to help prevent and combat the illicit trafficking of Tribal cultural and religious items.

"I would be pleased to answer any questions."

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Trump's Election Warnings; State Department Bribe; Trump's Business Record; Tracking Voter Fraud; Voter Fraud Controversy

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Lou Dobbs Tonight - FOX Business Network

LOU DOBBS, FBN HOST: Good evening, everybody. We are coming to you live tonight from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada, ahead of tomorrow's third and final presidential debate.

I said tonight -- here in Las Vegas it's a bright and sunny afternoon, and it is now exactly three weeks until the election, and Donald Trump is working overtime to win, today holding two rallies in Colorado. And in a speech in Colorado Springs, the Republican nominee took time to blast Democrats and the mainstream liberal media for doing their seemingly very best to rig this presidential election.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: The media, as merely, and it truly is -- it's just an extension of the Clinton campaign. The press has created a rigged system and poisoned the mind of so many of our voters.

Without the media and all of the other corrupt entities that have helped her along the way, she would be nothing. She would be nothing. She really -- she would be doing so badly.

The system is also rigged by the donors giving hundreds of millions of dollars to crooked Hillary Clinton's campaign. Look, bad system.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

DOBBS: We'll also tonight be showing you how Democratic operatives and the national liberal media have colluded to make Hillary Clinton the next president of the United States. All of that coming up here tonight.

As for the former secretary of state, she has been, well, in seclusion, some say hiding from the public for the past five days, preparing for tomorrow night's debate. And Hillary Clinton has gone radio silent as scandals, mounting scandals, yes, new scandals today threaten to derail her campaign altogether.

Both Donald Trump and congressional Republicans are now pressuring the U.S. State Department to fire one of Clinton's closest and most trusted aides at the State Department. That aide is undersecretary for management Patrick Kennedy. FBI documents released this week show he offered a bribe to the FBI during the Clinton e-mail investigation. We'll have a full report for you on the fallout from those documents coming up here tonight.

And Wikileaks today publishing more damaging e-mails from the Clinton campaign despite efforts to stop the daily drip of documents and e-mails and secretive speeches given by the nominee. Wikileaks founder Julian Assange is now accusing Secretary of State John Kerry of personally intervening to ask Ecuador to cut his internet connection at the Ecuadorian embassy in London. The State Department, however, denies any involvement in trying shut down Julian Assange and Wikileaks.

Joining us tonight, former Reagan White House political director Ed Rollins, "The Five's" Juan Williams and The Washington Times's Monica Crowley among our guests here tonight. My special guest tonight is Donald Trump's good friend and business partner for two decades. Las Vegas casino magnate Bill Ruffin joins us. We'll be talking about Donald Trump and what in the world is going on in this absolutely amazing, fascinating and often bizarre presidential

campaign.

We begin with charges that Hillary Clinton's top aides tried to negotiate a back room deal with the FBI as the agency was investigating her e-mail scandal. President Obama says the bribery accusations are not true, but the evidence is on the FBI Web site for all to see. And as of right now, we don't know who put that evidence on the FBI Web site, but as I said last night, whoever is responsible, we thank you.

FOX News chief intelligence correspondent Catherine Herridge has our report.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

CATHERINE HERRIDGE, FOX CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): At a press conference today, the president was drawn into allegations a State Department executive wanted a back room deal on the Clinton e-mail.

BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Some of the more sensational implications or appearances, as you stated them, aren't based on actual events.

HERRIDGE: But the heavily redacted files, known as 302s, show an FBI official describe the incident with Patrick Kennedy, one of Secretary Clinton's trusted lieutenants, as a, quote, "quid pro quo." But both the FBI and State Department emphasized again today it never happened. Kennedy wanted Clinton e-mails downgraded to unclassified. And in exchange, there was discussion of more overseas posts for FBI agents.

EDWARD MACMAHON, DEFENSE ATTORNEY: An FBI 302 does not contain opinion work by the FBI. If somebody said that somebody offered me something for something else, and that's in a 302, that agent is going to say, I am sure that that's exactly what happened.

HERRIDGE: Kennedy pushed hard for classification changes to the Clinton e-mails after Congress issued a subpoena and retention order in March of 2015.

(on camera): Trying to change the e-mails after March 4th, 2015, would, in effect, change or alter the evidence that had been requested by Congress.

MARK TONER, STATE DEPARTMENT DEPUTY SPOKESMAN: So first of all, these were documents for public release through the FOIA process and not necessarily what we shared with Congress.

HERRIDGE (voice-over): The FBI documents also show career State Department personnel were, quote, "suspicious" of a special group of employees brought into review the classification of Clinton e-mails. Some worked with David Kendall, who is Hillary Clinton's longtime personal attorney. The FBI documents call it a shadow government.

REP. JASON CHAFFETZ (R), UTAH: Hillary Clinton was out there trying to get her former people at Williams and Connolly, her own attorneys, to be the ones that made the determination on these documents, not the career professionals within the State Department. That goes to intent, and it goes so far beyond what is reasonable in our expectation of how that State Department should work!

HERRIDGE (on camera): But the State Department's position is there was no conflict (INAUDIBLE)

TONER: There was no conflict of interest. The mere fact of previously working at what is a very large law firm does not in and of itself constitute a conflict of interest.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HERRIDGE: Late today, The Washington Post published the first interview with retired FBI agent Brian McCauley, who said he and Kennedy agreed to do a favor for one another. But when McCauley found out a classified Benghazi e-mail was involved, he turned Kennedy down. But one of McCauley's FBI colleagues told investigators that McCauley, in fact, pressured him to change the e-mail to unclassified and relayed the conversation with Kennedy as a quid pro quo. McCauley disputes that description -- Lou.

DOBBS: Catherine, thank you very much -- Catherine Herridge reporting.

The Ecuadorian government in a statement to "Lou Dobbs Tonight" tonight admits that it did cut the internet access of WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange. The Ecuadorian government went on to say the move is, as they put it, temporary, and they claim that they were in no way pressured by Washington.

But experts tell FOX News Latino that the order was given to tilt the election in the -- in support of Hillary Clinton. Ecuador's socialist president, Rafael Correa (ph), has voiced support for Clinton. He said recently, quote, "I would like

Hillary to win," end quote, the Ecuadorian government spokesman in Quito tonight telling us it's not interfering in any way with the American election and favors no candidate whatsoever.

Well, Julian Assange has been holed up in the Ecuadorian embassy in London now for the past four years! No word tonight when his full internet access will be restored.

Well, turning now to shocking proof of the large-scale voter fraud that Donald Trump has been warning about throughout his campaign. James O'Keefe's Project Veritas today released the second video in its "rigging the election" series of reports that exposes the dark secrets of the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton campaign itself.

This video features Democratic operative Scott Foval, who admits Democrats have been rigging elections for years!

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We did the exact same thing. We manipulated the vote with money and action, not with laws. It's a very easy thing for Republicans to say, Well, let's bus the people in. Well, you know what? We've been bussing people in (EXPLETIVE DELETED) for 50 years, and we're not going to stop now. Just going to find a different way to do it. So I mean, I grew up with that idea. You know, they used to bus people out to Iowa. We need people out there (INAUDIBLE)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

DOBBS: That's not Foval's only shocking statement. FOX News chief Washington correspondent James Rosen has that part of the story.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (INAUDIBLE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's your version of reenfranchisement (INAUDIBLE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: ... in the line at a Trump rally (INAUDIBLE)

JAMES ROSEN, FOX CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): In its latest pair of videos, Project Veritas Action, the controversial conservative group that uses hidden cameras to document alleged misconduct by progressive organizations, targets the satellite groups orbiting the Democratic National Committee and the Hillary Clinton campaign.

A key figure in the videos is Bob Creamer, founder and head of Democracy Partners, a liberal political consulting firm who in the '90s pleaded guilty to two felony counts of tax violations and bank fraud. Another key figure, Scott Foval, national field director for Americans United for Change, another liberal activist group where Creamer is a general consultant.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You have contracted directly with the DNC (INAUDIBLE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I am contracted with him, but I answer to the head of special events for the DNC, and the head of the special events on political (INAUDIBLE)

ROSEN: Foval, whose firing was announced by Americans United for Change late Monday night, is seen describing his hiring of paid agitators, including the mentally ill, to promote fistfights at Trump rallies and his role in circumventing federal election laws that prohibit contact between campaigns and super PACs, like the pro-Clinton Priorities USA.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The campaigns and DNC cannot go near Priorities, but I guarantee (EXPLETIVE DELETED) you that the people who run the super PACs all talk to each other, and we and a few other people are the hubs of that communication.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The thing that we have to watch is making sure there's a double-blind between the actual campaign and the actual DNC and what we're doing. There's a double blind there so they can plausibly deny that they knew anything about it.

ROSEN: When a Chicago rally for Donald Trump had to be shut down due to security concerns, it was the work of these two operatives, Aaron Minter (ph) and Zulina Rodriguez (ph), who boast of their role in the Veritas videos. Creamer is asked if the Democratic nominee knows about the efforts of him and his crew.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (INAUDIBLE)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And then they tell Hillary what's going on.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Well, I mean, Hillary knows (INAUDIBLE)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The campaign paid DNC. DNC paid Democracy Partners. Democracy Partners paid the Foval group. The Foval group goes and executes (EXPLETIVE DELETED) (INAUDIBLE).

ROSEN: In a second video, Veritas purported to capture a lawyer named Cesar Vargas (ph), a strategist for Bernie Sanders and founder of the Dream Action Coalition, acknowledging his role in voter fraud.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (INAUDIBLE)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (INAUDIBLE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, no, no.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (INAUDIBLE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, absolutely (INAUDIBLE)

ROSEN: Donald Trump referenced the videos during a rally in Colorado.

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: The protesters are paid a lot of money by the DNC. And I kept saying, I wonder why those people are here? Because they never seem to have much on their mind other than stand up and protest. And yesterday, it came out, but it was barely covered by the media, but it's all over the internet. They were busted!

ROSEN: It is true that no mainstream media outlet has reported on the Veritas videos, but even conservatives deeply opposed to Trump call their contents troubling.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: James O'Keefe is kind of a guerrilla fighter when it comes to this sort of new internet journalism. A lot of Democrats are going to look at this and search for evidence that this was selectively edited, that this was the work of an activist.

That said, it's very difficult to watch this video and not conclude that these people are hanging themselves with their own words.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

ROSEN: The Clinton campaign did not respond to my request for comment. The Federal Election Commission told me it has not received any complaints in connection with this. In a statement, Bob Creamer said he is stepping back from his campaign work so as not to become a distraction. "We regret the unprofessional and careless hypothetical conversations that were captured on hidden cameras of a temporary regional contractor for our firm, and he is no longer working with us," Creamer said, adding, "None of the schemes described in the conversations ever took place."

Interim Democratic National Committee chair Donna Brazile today called James O'Keefe a convicted criminal with a history of doctoring video to advance his ideological agenda. O'Keefe pleaded guilty six years ago to entering a federal property, specifically the offices of Senator Mary Landrieu, under false pretenses, trying to record material there.

Lastly, Cesar Vargas, the Latino activist and lawyer seen in the videos discussing illegal activities, could not immediately be reached for comment -- Lou.

DOBBS: James, thank you very much -- James Rosen reporting.

As a result of the O'Keefe videos, Christian Adams, who is the president of the Public Interest Legal Foundation, has now filed a legal complaint with the Federal Election Commission, Adams telling FOX News, quote, "American voter rolls are corrupted with unacceptable numbers of aliens who are illegally registered to vote. Groups should not be coordinating with campaigns and political parties to exploit vulnerabilities in our election system. We hope this matter is fully investigated, and that if aliens are voting, they are prosecuted by the Justice Department. That would mark a change in DOJ policies of the last seven years."

Well, coming up next, Donald Trump says Hillary Clinton's e-mail scandal is much worse than Watergate.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: This is collusion between the FBI, Department of Justice and the State Department to try and make Hillary Clinton look like an innocent person, when she's guilty of very high crimes!

(END VIDEO CLIP)

DOBBS: And joining me next, Monica Crowley and Charlie Hurt. We'll take up all of the corruption and collusion that is occurring on the campaign trail, adding, well, even more interest to this year's fascinating presidential campaign.

We're live from Las Vegas. Much more straight ahead. Stay with us.

DOBBS: I have to tell you it is absolutely beautiful here in Las Vegas ahead of the third presidential debate tomorrow evening.

New FOX News polls out tonight. These new polls show Hillary Clinton maintaining her lead over Donald Trump. But Clinton's lead is under some pressure. She's leading Trump by 6 points, 45 to 39 in the four-way race. She was leading by 7 last week.

In the head-to-head, Clinton has a 7-point advantage, 49-42. The good news for Trump comes from independent voters in the internals of this poll, Trump leading Clinton now by 7 points among independents, 38 to 31.

And as I said, tomorrow night, the all-important third and final presidential debate. Joining us tonight, Washington Times on-line opinion editor, FOX News contributor Monica Crowley, and Washington Times staff writer Charlie Hurt. Both are FOX News contributors, and both are certainly welcome here in Las Vegas. Great to see you both.

MONICA CROWLEY, FOX CONTRIBUTOR: Hi, Lou. You, too.

CHARLES HURT, FOX CONTRIBUTOR: Thanks for having us.

DOBBS: Monica, let's start with everything that Donald Trump has said about rigged is -- is just -- it's magic coming true as we go into the final leg of this presidential campaign.

CROWLEY: And that's been one of his core themes throughout the campaign that has really gotten enormous traction, even before we saw the WikiLeaks disclosures and before we got the latest report of the FBI documents that show that there was collusion to obstruct justice and that her team was being tipped off to the process of the FBI investigation.

Bernie Sanders, during the Democratic primaries -- he was also talking about the corrupt, rigged process. He got traction on the far left with that. So I think American of all ideological stripes understand that there is something rotten not in the state of Denmark but the state of Washington, D.C.

DOBBS: You know, Charlie, I mean, it -- they have the evidence in front of them now. I mean, the O'Keefe tapes, the Project Veritas video -- I mean, that is the most damning thing that one could imagine in terms of electoral fraud, and it is active. It is pervasive. At the same time, it follows by two weeks the work of the Pew Research folks -- 18 million questionable registrations, four million arguably dead. I don't know how they're going to settle that argument.

CROWLEY: Arguably?

(LAUGHTER)

DOBBS: But the reality is, we have got a mess on our hands, and people keep asking Donald Trump if he's going to honor the result of the election! How can you -- I have to be honest with you. I couldn't say that if I were in his place.

CHARLES HURT, FOX CONTRIBUTOR: Yes. And you know -- you know, even as the media wrings its hands about this and they get so upset about him using this word "rigged," all the time, then -- then you look over at the side (ph) of the newspaper, and they're declaring that he's already lost the election!

DOBBS: Yes.

HURT: So if that doesn't feed into this notion that it is rigged, I don't know what does. But the other thing that I think -- you know, we've been talking about this for, you know, a decade or more, talking about these, you know, voter ID laws, which Democrats strenuously oppose, and then we talk about their desire to drive illegal immigration into this country and turn them into voters. And so is it rigged? Is it not rigged? I don't know. I don't trust any of those people on that side

on that issue because they've made it so clear that they want to change the electorate and take power away from the American people!

DOBBS: You are two of the brightest journalists working in this country.

HURT: Well, she is.

(LAUGHTER)

(CROSSTALK)

DOBBS: And as such, you're looking at the Pew Research material. You're looking at the report of four million people who are, you know, dead, some irregularity in their registration. You're looking at concerted effort on the part of this administration, taking in \$30 million to register illegal immigrants, ostensibly. Is this rigged or is this not? And if that isn't enough evidence for the two of you, what would it take?

CROWLEY: Can I just say, I worked for President Nixon during the last four years of his life. The 1960 election was pivotal in terms of the Democrats' efforts to steal a presidential election. President Nixon and I used to talk about this all the time. The voter fraud that the Democrats on behalf of John F. Kennedy carried out was extreme in Cook County and...

DOBBS: Yes, but...

(CROSSTALK)

DOBBS: I'm asking you about in the context of the empirical...

CROWLEY: The point is, Lou, that they have...

DOBBS: ... evidence that's there.

CROWLEY: ... good at this over the last couple of decades, and now they have it down to an art and a science. So everything that you're seeing now is proof that they've gotten extraordinary at this!

DOBBS: Well, there's another way to look at this, Charlie, and that is that the Republicans are chumps. They're absolute stooges, and they haven't got the street smarts to get out of -- I mean...

HURT: I didn't know that was even in question. That's a given in my mind. But no, I mean, no, I don't have any real particular faith in any of this because of the things that you see. And you know the shenanigans that these Democrats have been very, very committed to, you know, pulling off...

DOBBS: And the national media providing a closed feedback loop.

HURT: Yes, and then...

DOBBS: There's no accountability. I mean, there's -- there's complicity!

HURT: And then their response to it is, Oh, well, it's just a handful, a handful there. I'm, like, that's a handful of people who have lost -- whose votes have been canceled out! How is that not shocking?

CROWLEY: And it's all -- it's all ideological.

(CROSSTALK)

CROWLEY: They're not in love with Hillary Clinton but they are in love with her ideology.

DOBBS: Is he making progress right now?

CROWLEY: Trump is, yes. We're going to start to see a reversal, if he turn in the same kind of comeback performance tomorrow night that he did in the second debate.

DOBBS: Real quickly.

HURT: He's got to start making headway tomorrow night.

DOBBS: All right. Charlie, Monica, thank you very much.

CROWLEY: Thank you!

DOBBS: Appreciate it.

HURT: Thanks, Lou.

DOBBS: Well, on Wall Street today, stocks rebounded, the Dow Jones Industrials up 76 points, the S&P up 13 and the NASDAQ rose 44 points, volume on the big board, 3.1 billion shares. And believe it or not, that's an increase in volume over yesterday.

A reminder to listen to my reports three times a day coast-to-coast on the Salem Radio Network.

And now Las Vegas casino magnate Phil Ruffin. He says Donald Trump's word is his bond!

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PHIL RUFFIN, TRUMP BUSINESS PARTNER: If Donald tell you something, put it in the bank. He's been my partner and friend, and believe me, his handshake is better than any contract you will ever write.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

DOBBS: We're going to talk with Donald Trump's friend and business partner, Phil Ruffin. He joins me here next as we continue our broadcast from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

DOBBS: We are coming to you live from the MGM Grand here in Las Vegas, Nevada, and joining me now one of Las Vegas' favorite sons, casino magnate Phil Ruffin. He's owner of the Treasure Island Resort and Casino, also a longtime business partner with Donald Trump, they co-own the Trump International Hotel and Tower here in Las Vegas. Phil, great to have you here.

RUFFIN: Thank you, Lou. Happy to be here.

DOBBS: It is -- this is got have been a wonderment for you watching your friend run for president and go through the last almost year and a half in the -- in the -- I guess there's no other way to say it, the damndest presidential campaign in American history.

RUFFIN: You know, Lou, I told him not to run. I mean, advised don't do this, it'll tear you up. And he said, well, you know -- I said, why are you doing it? You have everything in the world. And he said, "Country's broken, and I can fix it." And so that's his whole thing.

DOBBS: He had thought about this for some time before over the course of the years, hadn't he?

RUFFIN: Yes, he has. He's flirted with it.

DOBBS: He's chewed on it, as it kind of gnawed at him. And as we watch what's happening, I have to say to you, you know, what's -- you know, it looks like he may have had a point there. He has set the agenda throughout this campaign. This is just an absolute statement of fact. He came into this campaign, and he started talking about unfair trade agreements, illegal immigration, border security, talking about rebalancing our geopolitical and strategic assets whether it's NATO or whether it's our role in the world.

I mean, \$20 trillion in debt. Every one of those issues he pushed to the forefront, and it wouldn't have happened if he hadn't have jumped in, would it?

RUFFIN: And you and I agree with that. I think -- I certainly do.

DOBBS: I don't think I can run from that. I absolutely agree.

RUFFIN: Open borders that they're talking about. You know, the trade deals, all the stock at the debt, 20 trillion in debt. You know, he's going to work on all that. He's got -- you know, he's a businessman and he's never run for office before. This is a complete surprise to him. He did not think the media would jump on him like that and mischaracterize who he is.

You know, I know Donald 20 years, he was the best man at my wedding 10 years ago. Donald has never said one racist comment at all. Donald is not a racist. And we've been through all kinds of things. Nothing, so that's a false thing.

They accuse him of doing business in Russia. He hasn't spent a dime in Russia. I tell you that or I'd have been a part of it, and they haven't loaned him any money. That's pure fabrication where they get this stuff.

DOBBS: And this orchestrated attack. I've seen orchestrated attacks in a presidential election. I've never seen anything approach this and even in the -- by substantial fractions.

RUFFIN: No.

DOBBS: And how do you react to these attacks when you, as a friend, see him being attacked about his relationship with women or his behavior?

RUFFIN: I hate it. You know, my wife had the miss universe franchise for the Ukraine. So we'd sit with Donald on three chairs, everyone for 12 years, you have this pageant. You know, hundreds of the most beautiful women in the world. It ends. We go to the spin room, and the girls flock around him, they want to touch him, they want autographs.

DOBBS: We don't want to get any women in trouble here.

RUFFIN: No, I don't know. But Donald does all that and treats them so nice, he treats them courteously, and then -- and then guess what he does, an hour later. He leaves, goes right home.

DOBBS: It is -- it's been tough to watch for everybody, even those who are not close to the Trump family, to Donald, but anyone who watches what the national media, this Clinton cartel has done, it has been an extraordinary and vicious vilification because this is the way Clintons win, and they are very good at it.

RUFFIN: Wow. You know, it surprised me that they were that strong.

DOBBS: He's going to win?

RUFFIN: Are they going to win?

DOBBS: Is Donald going to win?

RUFFIN: I think there's a hidden voter out there somewhere. And if he does well in the debates. We got to get closer, he's maybe four, five points behind now. He got to win the key states, as you know, Lou. And, you know, and he still got a couple weeks. Twenty-two days I guess.

DOBBS: Who's counting? Three weeks.

RUFFIN: Three weeks, OK. But he's got a chance. And he's a tough guy. This guy --

DOBBS: We hadn't noticed that about him.

RUFFIN: Yes. I've never seen anybody work so hard, and he does it in his private life, too. The guy works 20 hours a day, he never sleeps.

DOBBS: Well, I tell you one thing, he sure as heck hasn't been outworked by a single candidate. He faced 16 of them in the primary and Hillary Clinton in the general. Phil Ruffin, it's great to have you with us. Phil Ruffin, it's good to see you and, you know, all that you've accomplished, congratulations and look forward to seeing you soon.

RUFFIN: Thank you, Lou. Thank you.

DOBBS: Phil Ruffin, thank you. Up next, Donald Trump is warning about large scale voter fraud in this election.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TRUMP: People that have died 10 years ago are still voting. Illegal immigrants are voting. So many cities are corrupt in voter fraud is very, very common.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

DOBBS: Ed Rollins joins me here next to talk about this very issue and what it could mean for Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton on November 8th. Stay with us. We're coming to you live from the MGM Grand here in sunny, beautiful Las Vegas, Nevada.

DOBBS: Growing concerns tonight about voter fraud in the upcoming presidential election. As we reported to you here

tonight, a Pew Research report shows that one in eight voter registration in this country are, quote, significantly inaccurate or no longer valid. One in eight. That amounts to 18 million people. Also, another four million people ineligible or dead voters on the rolls.

And joining me now former Reagan White House Political Director, republican strategist, Great America PAC strategist, Ed Rollin. Ed, good to have you with us tonight.

ED ROLLINS, GREAT AMERICA PAC STRATEGIST: Thank you.

DOBBS: Let me -- let me just -- you have handled a lot of campaigns and worked a lot of elections. These numbers. When Donald Trump says the election rigged, that's an understatement, it appears to me when I look at the Pew Research numbers, four million dead or invalid registrations?

ROLLINS: Well, there's no question you need to basically have somehow have a system that purges people after they pass on, but it's a very difficult task, and I think what's very important here, Lou, is not to make to basically -- I'm having a hard time with a word here, to make this election which I think in most cases is very honest and very decent. And secretary of state and county clerks and everybody else worries about the very thing you're talking about -- because of four million people are dead.

There is no evidence four million people vote and half of them maybe republicans. You don't know who's dead or who's not dead. So you basically have to scrutinize, so don't legitimize this election by arguing -- we've had 56 elections in the history of our country since 1789 and I would hate for people walk --

DOBBS: No, I'm not dealing -- no, and I've got to take exception to that.

ROLLINS: Take exception to it. Show me evidence of where this is occurring?

DOBBS: Here's where I want to -- you want to explain the 18 million people? Four million dead? I'm talking about right now a federal program with \$30 million behind it to register people who have just crossed the border from Mexico for crying out loud. Ed, we've got to take this seriously. We cannot sit here --

ROLLINS: I'm not arguing about not taking it seriously. But I'm also arguing about, you know, there's no evidence at this point in time. There's a \$30 million program. There's no argument at this -- no one can walk in, no one has voted yet, or they haven't by absentee ballot and walk in and say you're not going to stop in advance. And what you have to do is the two parties, after this, could go protect their vote and they do, and secretaries of state --

DOBBS: Let me also add a couple of things if I may, for your consideration. One is the department of homeland security wants to take responsibility for these elections, wants to be a, if you will, supervising them because of the external threats when there appear to be as many internal threats to these elections. I have great faith in secretaries of state and volunteers all over the country.

But the honor system in this country and its electoral system is no longer valid. We are -- we have moved way beyond that and I'm afraid, given electronic voting, all of the issues that we've got, we've got an immense problem here, Ed. But none of this did I want to get, you know, down this deep in. I wanted to ask you about the fact that we're watching collusion and corruption on a massive scale in Washington, D.C. Have you ever seen the like?

ROLLINS: No, I'll certainly confirm that. I just think -- I think the basic -- first of all, I'd be against homeland security running national elections in this country. This has been a state right forever and you have to do a constitutional amendment which takes three-quarters of the congress, two-fourths is in the state to vote for that and two-thirds of the congress. That isn't going to happen. So you got to fix it at the state level and a county level. That's what I would argue.

DOBBS: This becomes an academic-level discussion. I like the more proximate and that is in point of fact, you have documents of interviews with federal bureau of investigation agents and officials in which they are -- they are being asked by Patrick Kennedy of the state department for a quid pro quo. He was offering a bribe for key postings to various parts of the world. What do you make of it?

ROLLINS: Well, I think -- I think if they can prove that, that's outrageous. And I think at the end of the day, when you get in there, this was a document I assume was in the subpoena to the congress and to try to alter that document is an obstruction of justice. That's totally separate, different and I'm all for that.

But I just -- I just think the key thing here, the drumbeat on making this election not legal is doing a great disservice to a lot of Americans who are going to vote, win by a landslide, that's the key.

DOBBS: I think you're right about that, and I would suggest that and recommend it to any candidate, following Ed Rollins' good advice and counsel. Ed, thanks so much for being with us. We appreciate it.

ROLLINS: Thank you.

DOBBS: Up next, Donald Trump says it's time to drain the sloth in Washington. Conservative commentator Niger Innis joins me next. We're live from Las Vegas. We've got a lot more straight ahead. Stay with us. I don't know that anyone could have imagined that on a beautiful October evening in America, we would be contending with the issues we do in this presidential campaign. Stay with us, we're coming right back.

DOBBS: Well, joining me here in Las Vegas is Niger Innis, and behind us, I was keeping time there with the music, national spokesperson for the congress on racial equality, Niger Innis and Chairman of the Tea Party Forward. Great to have you here.

NIGER INNIS, TEA PARTY FORWARD CHAIRMAN: Good to see you.

DOBBS: The music died just as I introduced you. What do you make of this? I mean, we're looking at in the "Fox News Polls" now six-point margin between these two. I mean, Donald Trump has been hit by everything. I mean, they have -- it has been blistering fire from all directions, within the party, lack of support, everyone trying to kill the man, and here he is. Three weeks away.

INNIS: He's in the game. He is in very much in the game, Lou, and, you know, what I imagine is that he must feel like little David against five goliaths, not just one, and somehow, you know, there is this loyal contingency that is not going to go away and Hillary seems not able to break above 47, 48 percent, so I still think that Donald Trump's got a legitimate shot at this.

DOBBS: Of course, he's a little farther from 50 percent than she is. What does all of this portend?

INNIS: I think there are a lot of Americans that are quietly telling pollsters that they're not necessarily voting for Donald Trump, but when they get into that voting booth, they're going to do the right thing.

DOBBS: And the right thing in this instance is not to, well, have the state department try to bribe the F.B.I., the right thing is to answer that phone at 3:00 A.M.? You know, the question I have here is what makes Hillary Clinton qualified to be president of the United States? No, I mean, it's a very serious question. What is her signature achievement?

INNIS: Married to Bill Clinton, I suppose, if that is an achievement. And the great -- the bang-up job she did with Benghazi as secretary of state, I suppose.

DOBBS: Yes. You know, without even getting into a debate or rebuttals on the thing. I mean, I just cannot find that one thing that says that the American people have got to have another Clinton in the White House.

INNIS: Well, I think what the American people have is a unique opportunity from any group of people, be it ancient Greeks, ancient romans that started off as a republic or democracy and then devolved into a corrupt dictatorship. We have the opportunity to stop it before it comes into fruition.

DOBBS: Very quickly, I've got to wrap here. Did you ever imagine the corruption was this widespread and profound?

INNIS: I had no idea the corruption was this widespread, and the pay-to-play and the incestuous relationship with media, consultant class, et cetera. We can stop it though, we've got -- we still have an opportunity.

DOBBS: On November 8th.

INNIS: On November 8th. Let's do it.

DOBBS: Niger Innis, thanks so much for being here. Good to see you.

INNIS: Thank you, Lou.

DOBBS: We're coming right back and when we do, we'll tell you about Donald Trump outworking Hillary Clinton. It's not even close as they head into the final debate. We'll be right back.

DOBBS: Live from Las Vegas and joining me now, Washington Examiner, chief political correspondent, Byron York. Co-host of "The Five" on the Fox News channel, Juan Williams. Great to have you with us. Let's start with corruption everywhere in the nation's capital. It looks you live in a town that seems like it was built on a swamp and stayed so.

BYRON YORK, WASHINGTON EXAMINER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: And right now it's helping Donald Trump. I mean, there's no doubt now that you have all of this news about this alleged quid pro quo. It brings --

DOBBS: I love this quid pro quo language, because that's what -- a very tony language for a bribe, right?

YORK: The good thing about it is, from Trump's point of view, is that one, it's a real story, and two, it's not talking about all those women who dominated the last several days. So Hillary's email problems come roaring back. It never really goes away.

DOBBS: What do you make of it all, Juan? I mean, she's in real trouble here, isn't she?

JUAN WILLIAMS, FOX NEWS POLITICAL ANALYST: No. Well, I like hearing this from you guys because, you know, when you look at the numbers, they're just so hard right now.

DOBBS: There's only one number, six.

WILLIAMS: Well, it was seven a week ago. But here's the thing, we're only now a two plus weeks out.

DOBBS: Can she continue to hide from the public? She went 278 days in a presidential campaign without having a press conference. She is hiding right now, in seclusion. Excuse me, Juan. I don't want to be upsetting your tender.

WILLIAMS: Yes, because I have my ears and my heart. But I must tell you there's a debate tomorrow night, watch right here, a big debate, and Hillary Clinton will be there. After the first -- what happen, Hillary Clinton's numbers kept going up. So we'll see what happens. Now tomorrow, the Trump strategy could be, I'm going to hit her hard. I'm going to come at her again. You know, if she come back? I don't know.

YORK: I looked at the RealClearPolitics average of polls numbers of the various debates. First debate day September 26, Hillary Clinton leads Trump by 2.3 percent and points. Second debate day, October 9th, she leads him by 4.6 percentage points. Tomorrow, she'll lead him by 6.9 percentage points up, up, up.

DOBBS: It has been. And there's an inverse correlation here. And that is the number of attacks against Donald Trump over the period you described has been the most vicious vilification, marginalization that I have ever seen in politics in this country ever and I've been covering it since '76.

YORK: I have to agree with you on that. As a matter of fact, you've seen some of the people in the press led by the New York Times actually trying to redefine their roles as reporters to treat Trump differently because they say he lies so much that they have to treat him differently from other candidates.

DOBBS: I got to say this one, you had to be shocked. The Washington Post today, giving four Pinocchios to Hillary Clinton for lying on trying to hang the, you know, the auto bailout on Donald Trump. It's amazing. Saying that he wanted to let him go. Four Pinocchios --

WILLIAMS: The thing is that Hillary Clinton is not a perfect candidate --

DOBBS: Byron York says a concession for Juan Williams. Thanks for being with us. And good night from Las Vegas. See you tomorrow.

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Heck Campaign Issues Statement on 'Measly' Social Security COLA for 2017

10/18/2016

Targeted News Service

Rep. Joe Heck, the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate, issued the following campaign statement by spokesman Brian Baluta in the wake of an announcement from the Social Security Administration that the cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for Social Security beneficiaries will only be 0.3 percent:

"Dr. Heck is the only candidate in this race with a plan to strengthen Social Security for current beneficiaries and protect it for future retirees.

"Meanwhile, in last week's debate, Catherine Cortez Masto demonstrated that she has no plans for strengthening Social Security, fixing the flaws in the Affordable Care Act, reforming our tax code, or standing up to Chinese aggression in the South China Sea.

"Nevadans are ready for a Senator who has solutions to the challenges we face as a state and nation and who will put Nevada first; that Senator is Dr. Joe Heck."

Heck COLA bill would provide seniors financial peace of mind

The COLA increase, which USA Today labeled "measly," will amount to just \$5.00 for the average beneficiary. This news comes amid additional reports stating, "a third of Medicare's 56 million beneficiaries could see their premiums jump 22% next year."

In May, Dr. Heck introduced legislation ensuring that seniors on Social Security get a guaranteed COLA of at least 1% and up to 3% for lower income seniors. The SENIOR COLA Act will provide financial security and ensure seniors can meet their economic needs.

Debate focus group overwhelmingly trusts Heck on healthcare

In Friday's 8 News Now and Univision Nevada Senatorial debate, a focus group of 14 Nevada voters overwhelmingly said Dr. Heck has the best ideas to deal with the nation's healthcare.

Click to watch: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/O1lg9b19rgg>

Masto's attack on Heck's JOLT Act falls flat

A bizarre moment in the debate came when Catherine Cortez Masto attempted to attack Dr. Heck's bill known as the JOLT Act. The bill is designed to boost international travel and tourism to Las Vegas while increasing our national security. According to one estimate, the JOLT Act could attract as many as 98 million more visitors to the U.S., create one million American jobs, and generate as much as \$859 billion in revenue by 2020.

The bill is backed by the U.S. Travel Association for its economic and security benefits.

"The U.S. Travel Association applauds Representatives Heck and Quigley for introducing the JOLT Act," said U.S. Travel Association President and CEO Roger Dow. "The travel industry fully supports reforming the Visa Waiver Program with additional layers of security and greater flexibility for responsible expansion. Strengthening and expanding the VWP is critical to our national and economic security."

The JOLT Act would make travel to the U.S. safer by maintaining high level airport security standards, assisting in the operation of an effective air marshal program, maintaining the highest level of security standards when issuing of passports and travel documents, making mandatory the use of e-passports, cooperating with the United States' initiatives toward combating terrorism, cooperating with the United States' intelligence community in sharing terrorist threat information.

National security experts agree. Former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff wrote an op-ed in USA Today. Secretary Chertoff wrote about the importance of VWP as a security tool and how passing the JOLT Act will help boost security.

While Masto dodges, Heck outlines importance of Hague South China Sea decision

Dr. Joe Heck posed Catherine Cortez Masto a question on the Hague's recent arbitration decision under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea involving disputed territory in the South China Sea.

The South China Sea has long been the scene of territorial disputes between China and other Asian-Pacific nations, most notably the Philippines. Tensions arising from the territorial disputes threaten international trade in the area, which is one of the world's most active trade routes.

Dr. Heck asked, "\$5 trillion worth of trade, or nearly 30% of all of trade, passes through the South China Sea every year, yet that region is growing more dangerous because of Chinese adventurism. How should the U.S. respond to China's territorial assertions in the South China Sea, particularly in light of the July 2016 rulings from the Hague?"

While Catherine Cortez Masto danced around the question, Dr. Heck showed a grasp of the issue.

Click to watch: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/YtvfwZWjbwA>

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Oversight FIELD Hearing on 'The Theft, Illegal Possession, Sale, Transfer, Export of Tribal Cultural Items'
10/18/2016
Targeted News Service

The Senate Indian Affairs Committee issued the following hearing information:

10/18/2016 10:00 AM

Type:

Field Hearing

Please note, the hearing will begin at 10:00 a.m. MDT

Location:

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

2401 12th Street NW

Albuquerque, NM 87104

Panel 1:

Ms.

Cheryl

Andrews-Maltais

Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs

U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC

Mr.

Tracy

Toulou

Director, Office of Tribal Justice

U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC

Mr.

Mark

Taplin

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC

Mr.

Waldemar

Rodriguez

Special Agent in Charge, Homeland Security Investigations, El Paso U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, El Paso, TX

Panel 2:

The Honorable

Kurt

Riley

Governor

Pueblo of Acoma, Acoma, NM

The Honorable

E. Paul

Torres

Governor

Pueblo of Isleta, All Pueblo Council of Governors, Isleta Pueblo, NM

The Honorable

Russell

Begaye

President

Navajo Nation, Window Rock, AZ

Dr.

Gregory

Schaaf, Ph.D.

Historian, Professor of Native American Studies

University of California (Retired), Santa Fe, NM

Ms.

Honor

Keeler

Director, International Repatriation Project

Association on American Indian Affairs, Pawtucket, RI

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**President and CEO of Sabre Corporation named Brand USA chair of the board
10/18/2016
eTurbo News**

U.S., Oct. 18 -- The board of directors of Brand USA, the destination-marketing organization for the United States, has elected Tom Klein, president and CEO of Sabre Corporation, chair of the board.

Klein succeeds Arne Sorenson, president and CEO of Marriott International, Inc., who originally joined the Brand USA

board on Oct. 1, 2012, and has served as board chair since Jan. 22, 2015. Sorenson, who is in his second term as a board member, will continue to serve as a member of the board.

"The Brand USA team has made tremendous progress getting industry and government resources all working together to support the important economic and cultural benefits of increasing international visits to the United States," said Tom Klein, president and CEO of Sabre Corporation. "It's an honor to serve as chair of the Brand USA board as we find new ways to market the USA to the rest of the world."

Klein was one of the original 11 Brand USA board members appointed in September 2010 by the Secretary of Commerce. In September 2011 and December 2014, the Secretary of Commerce reappointed Klein to the board. Prior to his election as chair, he served as vice chair of the board. Klein is eligible to serve on the board of Brand USA through the expiration of his consecutive terms on Dec. 1, 2017.

"Serving on Brand USA's Board of Directors and as Chair has allowed me to advance our industry through a substantive and impactful platform, and I look forward to continued involvement as we identify innovative ways to grow international travel," said Arne Sorenson, president and CEO of Marriott International. "I'm proud of what we've been able to accomplish and I know that strong progress will continue under Tom's leadership."

Chris Thompson, president and CEO of Brand USA, acknowledging the commitment and contributions of Sorenson and Klein, said "We thank Arne for his leadership as board chair and look forward to his continued guidance as a member of the board. As we enter our seventh year as the nation's destination marketing organization, we look forward to Tom Klein's leadership of the board. As one of Brand USA's original board members, Tom has seen Brand USA's growth from a start-up organization to one building upon a strong foundation of success. We are fortunate to have him at the helm as we enter the next fiscal year and phase of our development in fueling the nation's economy through international tourism to the USA."

Brand USA is governed by an 11-member board of directors appointed for a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security. To allow for staggered term expirations, of the members first appointed to the board, three were appointed for terms of one year, four were appointed for terms of two years, and four were appointed for terms of three years. All members of the board are United States citizens and are either current or former chief executive officers, chief financial officers, or chief marketing officers, or have held equivalent management positions.

Designated board members have leadership expertise in specific sectors of the travel industry including: hotel accommodations; restaurants; retail or a related association; travel distribution; attractions or recreations; state-level tourism office; city-level convention and visitors bureau; passenger air; land or sea transportation; and immigration law and policy. At least two members of the board are audit committee financial experts. In addition, at least five members of the board have expertise in international travel promotion or marketing broadly representing various regions of the United States.

Brand USA board members receive no compensation for their service on the Brand USA board and, although eligible to seek reimbursement for actual travel expenses and per diem, have voluntarily elected not to seek reimbursement for allowable expenses.

Each year, Brand USA deploys a number of market-driven platforms and programs to increase In-bound visitor travel to the United States and drive tourism dollars to communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five territories, as well as promote tourism to rural and urban areas equally, including areas not traditionally visited by international travelers. To accomplish this, Brand USA utilizes a combination of brand marketing, public relations, travel trade outreach, and cooperative marketing programs that provide opportunities for partners of all shapes and sizes to participate.

As one of the best levers for driving economic growth, international travel to the United States currently supports 1.8 million American jobs (directly and indirectly) and benefits virtually every sector of the U.S. economy. According to studies by Oxford Economics, in the past three years Brand USA's marketing initiatives have helped welcome more than three million incremental visitors to the USA, benefiting the U.S. economy with more than \$21 billion in total economic impact, and supporting, on average, nearly 50,000 incremental jobs a year.

Support for Brand USA's operations comes from a combination of non-federal contributions from partner organizations representing destinations, travel brands and private-sector companies, and matching funds collected by the U.S. government from international visitors who travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program.

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Sheriff: Fewer deputies but crime down in county**10/17/2016*****Monroe News, The***

Related story - Dave Uhl: Heroin remains main problem for county

Despite having significantly fewer deputies on the road, Monroe County Sheriff Dale Malone said major crime is down and his fight against drugs is as active and resilient as ever.

In his four years as the head of the largest police agency in the county, Sheriff Malone, 57, said he has increased personnel in drug units, saved money in what he calls unnecessary overtime and heard nothing but positive reaction from citizens who have come in contact with deputies.

The lack of citizen complaints and the professionalism of the deputies and other employees has been significant, said the sheriff who is running as a Democrat.

"We're extremely proud of what the deputies have been able to accomplish," Sheriff Malone said. "Every major crime is down and what the deputies have accomplished is almost unheard of. It's a credit to their commitment and the respect they receive from the community."

Sheriff Malone said despite having 25 percent fewer deputies than in 2010, the fight against heroin has been bolstered by Operation Gateway, the multi-agency enforcement that targets popular drug areas in the county, such as motels.

Hundreds of fugitives and others have been arrested and many drug cases initiated through the operation that also involves the Monroe Police, US Border Patrol and Homeland Security.

But he said just arresting drug users is not going to solve the problem. That's why he said it was important to sponsor events like the hockey game that raised \$53,000 for Ryan's Hope, the organization that sends addicts to rehabilitation.

Education, enforcement and support and recovery all play roles in the fight against heroin, Sheriff Malone said.

"We're not going to arrest our way out of this heroin problem," he said. "Drugs always have been around and always will be around."

Sheriff Malone, who grew up in Carleton, said he has invested \$40,000 to repair Raptor and expects the helicopter to be patrolling the skies in 2017. He said he supports transparency and is supporting that by ordering 10 more body cameras for his deputies. Four are in use already.

Although he has fewer deputies on the road, he said committing four to jail transport is necessary because it is required by contract with US Marshals and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). If he did not have four committed, he would lose the \$2.3 million contract.

The sheriff said his commitment to fighting drugs is evident when he added a deputy each to MANTIS and the Monroe Police vice unit.

"We have more people working narcotics than at any time in recent history," he said.

Sheriff Malone, who served on the Airport Community Schools Board of Education for 16 years, and his wife, Deb, have been married 36 years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. He was hired in 1975 and served 35 years before becoming sheriff. During his law enforcement career he was sergeant for two years, lieutenant for four, major for two and sheriff for four.

"This all comes down to experience," he said. "The last four years flew by. It seems like it started yesterday."

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10TH FBI-WIDE OPERATION CROSS COUNTRY RECOVERS FIVE JUVENILE VICTIMS IN WASHINGTON STATE**10/17/2016*****States News Service***

The following information was released by the FBI:

More Than 40 Law Enforcement Partners Participate in Cities Statewide

This past week, three Child Exploitation Task Forces (CETFs) in Washington State, along with other local partners, recovered five juveniles and contacted 67 adults being exploited through prostitution. Some of the adults had been forced into prostitution as juveniles. The local operations were part of Operation Cross Country X (OCC10).

In Washington State, the CETFs arrested 14 subjects suspected of commercially exploiting children and/or adults and related crimes. Interviews with subjects and adults engaged in prostitution provided significant leads toward identifying other juveniles that are being exploited through prostitution. The CETFs recovered drugs and several vehicles during the operations.

Operations took place October 13 to 15, 2016. Operations occurred in Airway Heights, Bellevue, Everett, Kent, Lakewood, Pasco, Spokane, Tukwila and throughout King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. Victims and the pimps travel throughout eastern and western Washington to work and do not necessarily reside in the area where they were located this week.

The multi-agency CETFs, working with additional partnering agencies, made contact with young women involved in prostitution through the use of undercover agents and detectives and by canvassing areas where street prostitution is known to occur.

All the victims were offered referrals to and information on a variety of services within the community, such as job training, housing, counseling, and medical and education assistance. Immediate medical and safety needs were addressed.

This is the 10th iteration of the FBI-led initiative that took place across the United States and, for the first time, also took place in several countries around the world. Law enforcement partners from Cambodia, Canada, the Philippines, and Thailand held operations in their respective countries.

The annual OCC operation is one element of an ongoing strategy to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). CETFs in Washington conduct investigations and operations throughout the state, year-round. A challenging element of this criminal activity, though, is that pimps and their victims often travel throughout the nation to engage in prostitution and do not necessarily reside in the area where they are located by authorities. By focusing efforts nation-wide during a specified period of time, the FBI and its partners are able to cast a broad net for a better opportunity to identify, locate, and recover victims before they are moved to another area. Additionally, gathering intelligence from nearly simultaneous operations helps CETFs further understand this crime.

The FBI Seattle Division works with law enforcement partners on three dedicated Child CETFs in Washington State, based in Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma.

The North-Central Sound CETF is a partnership between the FBI, the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, and the Bellevue, Everett, Kent, Mt. Vernon, Port of Seattle, SeaTac, Seattle, and Tukwila Police Departments.

The South Sound CETF in Tacoma is a partnership between the FBI, Washington State Patrol (Missing and Exploited Children's Task Force and High Tech Crimes Unit), Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Lakewood Police Department, Tacoma Police Department, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

The Spokane CETF is a partnership between the FBI, Spokane Police Department, and the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.

This year, the North-Central Sound CETF included operations targeting individuals looking to pay for sex with minors. This operation led to the arrest of two men seeking to pay for sex with a law enforcement officer posing as a 15 year old.

CETFs provide a rapid and effective investigative response to reported federal crimes involving the exploitation of children. The task forces strive to reduce the vulnerability of children to acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, and to strengthen the capabilities of federal, state, and local law enforcement through training programs and investigative assistance.

OCC is part of the FBI's Innocence Lost initiative, which began in 2003 and is now international. Since the program's inception, there have been more than 6000 child recoveries..

Acknowledgements:

OCC10 was successful in Washington because of the partnership of more than 40 entities.

OCC10 relied on extraordinary support by the partners who hosted command posts for operations and/or provided significant resources. These include Bellevue Police Department, Kent Police Department, Lakewood Police Department, Spokane Police Department, Tukwila Police Department, and Snohomish County Fire District 1.

In addition to CETF members listed above, additional partners who participated in OCC10 were:

FBI Honolulu Division

FBI Salt Lake Division, Coeur d'Alene Resident Agency

Federal Protective Service (FPS)

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI)

Kalispel Tribal Police Department

Pasco Police Department

Pierce County Sheriff's Department (PCSD)

Port of Seattle Police Department (POSPD)

Seattle Police Department (SPD)-VICE and High Risk Victims Unit

Snohomish County Sheriff's Office-Special Investigations Unit

Snohomish Regional Drug and Gang Task Force

Spokane Regional Safe Streets Task Force

Thurston County Sheriff's Office (TCSO)

U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Washington State Patrol (WSP)

Washington State Patrol's Missing and Exploited Children's Task Force (WSP-MECTF)

Other government partners invaluable in the success of OCC10 in Washington were:

Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

King County Juvenile Probation Office

King County Prosecutor's Office

Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office (KCPO)

Pierce County Prosecutor's Office (PCPO)

United States Attorney's Office-Eastern District of Washington

Washington State Department of Children and Family Services

Washington Department of Corrections

Washington State Gambling Commission

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From: [Donald J. Trump for President, Inc.](#)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Trump in Fletcher, NC Tomorrow!
Date: Thursday, October 20, 2016 1:44:24 PM

Trump - Make America Great Again



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JOIN US IN FLETCHER, NC TOMORROW!



Dear (b) (6), (b) (7)(C),

Remember to get your tickets to join Donald J. Trump and team in
Fletcher, NC Tomorrow, Oct. 21st @ 12:00 PM for a rally! [Get your
tickets here](#). Details about the event are below:

Tomorrow, October 21st: Fletcher, NC

WNC Agricultural Center

Davis Event Center

1301 Fanning Bridge Rd.
Fletcher, NC 28732

Doors Open: 9:00 AM

Event Begins: 12:00 PM

[Get your tickets here.](#)

Please limit personal items and arrive early to expedite entrance into the venue - please note, **NO homemade signs, banners, professional cameras with a detachable lens, tripods, monopods, selfie sticks, back packs or large bags will be permitted into the venue.**

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Date: Friday, October 21, 2016 9:31:24 AM

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From: [Donald J. Trump for President, Inc.](#)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Trump in Tallahassee, FL Today!
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 9:34:36 AM

Trump - Make America Great Again



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Tuesday, October 25th: Tallahassee, FL

The Tallahassee Car Museum
2635 Thornton Road

Tallahassee, FL 32308

Gates Open: 3:00 PM

Event Begins: 6:00 PM

[Get your tickets here.](#)

Please limit personal items and arrive early to expedite entrance into the venue - please note, **NO homemade signs, banners, professional cameras with a detachable lens, tripods, monopods, selfie sticks, back packs or large bags will be permitted into the venue.**

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